

Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordanian Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية والرأي

Iran appoints ambassador to Iraq

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran has appointed an ambassador to Iraq three days after the two countries resumed diplomatic relations severed during their eight-year Gulf war, an Iranian newspaper said Wednesday. Mohammad Kazem Khonsari will leave for Baghdad in a few days time as the newly appointed ambassador, the English language Tehran Times said in a report Thursday. An "informed source" told the paper that officials in Tehran expect Iraq to introduce its own ambassador within a few days also, said the report. On Sunday, Iran and Iraq announced they had resumed diplomatic ties for the first time in three years. The relations were never formally severed despite the 1980-1988 war, although the embassies were closed and diplomats withdrawn in 1987. Khonsari is a former ambassador to Libya who for the past two years has been director-general for the Middle East and the North Africa at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, the newspaper said.

British women may return to Iraq

LONDON (R) — Iraq's embassy said Wednesday it had given visas to several British women who wished to rejoin husbands detained in Iraq and would welcome requests from others wanting to return. The British Foreign Office said it was aware that some British women, allowed to leave Iraq after being held as detainees, had expressed a desire to return despite being advised against it. "Our consular advice to Britons remains that they should not go to Iraq or Kuwait. We see the Iraqi move as manipulation of innocent civilians," a spokesman said. An Iraqi embassy spokesman could not say how many women were issued with visas but the embassy had received applications from "maybe 10 or more." Instructions from Baghdad authorised granting visas to any British woman wanting to rejoin her husband in Iraq, he said. "Any family that approaches our embassy and asks for a visa is welcome to go to Iraq," Baghdad has stopped Western and Japanese men from leaving Iraq and Kuwait and moved some 700 Americans, Britons, French, Germans and Japanese to strategic sites in case of attack.

Volume 15 Number 4524

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18-19, 1990, RABI' A AWWAL 29-30, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Italian peace mission supports King's efforts

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received a cable from a delegation representing relatives of Italian nationals staying in Iraq. The cable, sent to the King while passing through Jordan on a peace mission to Iraq, said: "On the occasion of our passing through Jordanian territory to Iraq on a peace mission we voice our support to Your Majesty's initiative which calls for a diplomatic and honourable solution to the Gulf crisis and all other crisis in the Middle East."

French deputies begin visit

AMMAN (Petra) — A French parliamentary delegation arrived in Amman Wednesday on a three-day visit to Jordan for talks with Jordanian officials and parliamentarians on the Gulf crisis. The delegation was received in the airport by Deputy Husni Al Shiyab, rapporteur of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lower House, and head of the Jordan Ministry's Political Department Khaled Obeidat.

Shevardnadze, Dumas to meet

PARIS (AP) — Foreign Minister Roland Dumas will meet Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze for brief talks Thursday in Vienna, diplomatic sources said Wednesday. The two diplomats will lay groundwork for a short visit by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to France next week and a conference on security cooperation in Europe, the sources said.

Syria to pay \$3.4m to Turkey

ANKARA (AP) — The Syrian government has agreed to pay \$3.4 million in compensation for the downing of a private Turkish plane by Syrian warplanes last year, a Foreign Ministry spokesman announced Wednesday. Spokesman Murat Sungur told reporters during his weekly briefing that the two sides reached an agreement over the issue in Damascus Tuesday. A propeller plane of the Turkish title deeds office carrying out measurements of real estate borders was shot down near the Syrian border by two Syrian MiG-21s which violated Turkish air space. All five crew members aboard were killed.

Japanese students protest troop plan

TOKYO (AP) — Several extremist students occupied the Kyoto university dean's office Wednesday, in one of the first public protests against government plans to deploy Japan's Self Defense Forces overseas. At least 10 students broke into the office early Wednesday morning and remained there all day, making speeches through a bullhorn protesting the government bill, said Hideo Miyaji, a spokesman for Kyoto University. About 10 other students demonstrated on the roof of the two-story building, he said.

Syrians free detainees from E. Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Syrian forces freed 23 Syrians and seven Lebanese supporters jailed in East Beirut, security sources said Wednesday. They said the soldiers — stationed in East Beirut since Saturday when a joint Syrian-Lebanese military strike toppled General Michel Aoun — went inside the Rounineh prison late on Tuesday and freed the inmates. The freed Lebanese were members of parties loyal to Syria. It was not known whether the freed Syrians were soldiers or civilians. Beirut's Al Nidaa communist newspaper said Habib Al Charouni, the assassin of late President-elect Bashir Gemayel, was believed to be among those released. Charouni, in his 30s, is a member of the pro-Damascus Syrian Nationalist Social Party (SNSP). The SNSP said it had no confirmed information on Charouni's reported release.

Primakov retains optimism over Gulf

Combined agency dispatches

PARIS — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's special envoy on the Gulf crisis said Wednesday he remained optimistic that Iraq could show some flexibility that might avert war. The envoy, Yevgeny Primakov, commented after a 45-minute meeting with president Francois Mitterrand. Primakov conferred Tuesday with Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti in Rome and flies to Washington to meet U.S. President George Bush and other American officials Thursday. "I remain a prudent optimist," Primakov said after his talks with Mitterrand. "I think the Iraqi position could still become more flexible."

Primakov, who visited Baghdad earlier this month, said he had insisted on the need to find solutions that would avoid war. But he said there was no question of the international community

accepting Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

Mitterrand's spokesman Hubert Vedrine declined to divulge details of Primakov's meeting with the French president at the Elysee Palace.

He noted that Mitterrand would hold talks with Gorbachev when the Soviet leader visits Paris at the end of the month.

Primakov hinted at Soviet frustration with Baghdad's refusal to withdraw from Kuwait. "I can tell you in diplomatic terms that the (Iraqi) position could be more flexible," he told reporters.

"(But) we must seek solutions that can avert a military confrontation," he said.

Primakov stressed that the Soviet Union's main aim was to prevent war in the Gulf. But he said Moscow would refuse to accept Iraq's takeover of Kuwait or link a solution to the Gulf crisis to an international conference on the wider political problems of the

Middle East as Iraq has demanded.

"The international community cannot accept that link. But at the same time it is obvious that a solution to the Gulf crisis should be the impulse for the solution of all the problems of the Middle East to create stability in the region," he said.

After Primakov's visit to Iraq, the Soviet news agency Novosti said Baghdad was prepared to withdraw its forces from Kuwait if Iraq could keep an oilfield and two offshore islands which would expand Iraq's limited access to the sea. Baghdad denied the report.

Iraq Wednesday strongly reaffirmed that its policy remained unchanged.

"No Iraqi official has or ever will say that Kuwait is not part of Iraq," the official news agency INA quoted an information ministry source as saying. "Iraq does not have two poli-

cies in regard to this or any other issue."

Iraq annexed Kuwait six days after its army took over the state, later proclaimed it as its 19th province, and vowed repeatedly that it would never relinquish it.

Primakov said in Rome that Iraq would be ready to negotiate a settlement provided the West did not set ultimatums or threaten military action.

An Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait was "possible and necessary," said Primakov.

"Our position on Iraqi national issues, including that of the province of Kuwait, has stayed unchanged since the blessed and eternal unity (annexation) of August 8," INA quoted the information ministry source as saying on Wednesday.

A copy of a new post-invasion map drawn by Iraqis and issued to Baghdad's embassies abroad splits Kuwait in two.

(Continued on page 5)

Palestinians boycott Hurd

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian leaders boycotted a planned meeting with visiting British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd on Wednesday and urged world pressure on Israel to accept a U.N. probe of last week's massacre at Haram Al Sharif.

The decision to boycott the luncheon with Hurd came after statements attributed to Hurd in Israeli news reports that Britain opposed a Palestinian state.

The British consulate in Arah Jerusalem issued a statement saying Hurd's remarks had been misreported.

"The British position is well known," the consulate said. "It favours self-determination for the Palestinian people. Whether or not that leads to a Palestinian state is a matter for them and negotiations."

It added: "It is very regrettable that leading Palestinians should have taken this incorrect information and used it as a reason for calling off their talks with the

foreign secretary."

The 27 Palestinians who were to have met with Hurd instead signed a statement and had it delivered to him.

The statement accused Israel of intransigence in rejecting the U.N. Security Council's call for a probe.

The Security Council voted unanimously last Friday to condemn the Haram Al Sharif massacre. The resolution ordered a three-member investigation team to be sent to Jerusalem.

Israel's cabinet on Sunday rejected the decision.

"Israel's refusal to cooperate with the (U.N.) secretary general's mission of investigation is symptomatic not only of its continued intransigence, but also of its contempt for the will of the Security Council and for the internationally recognized rights of the Palestinian people," the Palestinian statement said.

The three-page document reiterated the Palestinians' call for an international peace-keeping force to be sent to protect the million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We seek urgent protection for the captive civilian Palestinian people, not only in the form of a mission of investigation. But primarily as a U.N. international presence in the occupied territories to actually prevent the perpetration of Israeli atrocities," it said.

It also accused the West of "political and moral double standards" for condemning Iraq's invasion of Kuwait while "allowing the Palestinians to languish under the extremely brutal and oppressive Israeli occupation for more than 23 years."

Ghassan Khatib, a professor at the West Bank's Bir Zeit University, said the decision to boycott was made because of Israeli news reports suggesting that Hurd rejected the idea of an independent Palestinian state, called for blocking the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) from peace talks and recommended Israel determine its own boundaries on "security" considerations.

"These statements were reported and not corrected or denied," Khatib said. "We have to respond to the sensitivity of our public opinion."

He added: "We have respect for some of the things Douglas Hurd was

Gorbachev, Cheney discuss Gulf crisis

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev received U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney in the Kremlin Wednesday and said it was amazing that the two superpowers had made meetings on defence a routine affair.

Cheney congratulated the Soviet leader on receiving the Nobel Prize and Gorbachev, joking in response, said it was unusual to bear congratulations on a peace prize from the head of a military establishment.

Both men appeared to be in high spirits as they met for talks which are part of a warming trend in superpower relations. Soviet officials have said the talks will focus on arms control, but the

Ozal opens talks in Damascus

DAMASCUS (R) — Turkish President Turgut Ozal, on the last leg of a five-nation tour to discuss the Gulf crisis, began talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Wednesday.

Assad greeted Ozal at the airport with a 21-gun salute. But diplomats said their talks were expected to include the contentious issue of sharing vital Euphrates River water.

In January Turkey cut the flow for one month to fill a giant dam. Both Syria and Iraq, who rely on the river for irrigation and power generation, strongly criticised the cutoff.

Ankara wants Syria to crack down on Kurdish guerrillas.

But Turkey said another dispute was settled Tuesday when Damascus agreed to pay \$3.4 million compensation for shooting down a civilian Turkish plane last year.

Baker calls for patience in dealing with Gulf crisis

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker asserted Wednesday the political and economic isolation of Iraq has been achieved and urged the international community to have patience as sanctions tighten on Baghdad.

Baker, testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, again rejected any partial solution to the Gulf crisis.

"Some may urge action for action's sake. But the only truly effective action we can take now is to continue to heighten Iraq's political, economic and military isolation," he said.

There have been several suggestions that Iraq might accept a compromise resolution to the crisis, which began when its forces invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2.

But Baker, at a news conference Tuesday and again before the Senate committee Wednesday, firmly ruled out such an option.

"The political and economic isolation of Iraq has been achieved," Baker said.

"The costs and responsibilities for enforcing this isolation are being fairly distributed. Economic leakage is minimal. The Iraqi economy will suffer badly and the Iraqi war machine will be hurt too," Baker added.

Although he said the United States continued to search for a peaceful solution, Baker dismissed suggestions by Iraq and others that the Gulf crisis should be linked to obtaining a resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Iraq must fail if peace is to succeed. The prospects for a just and lasting peace between Israel and its Arab neighbours will be shattered if (Iraq) prevails," Baker said.

Baker said that more than 25

countries were now supplying men or material in support of United Nations sanctions in the anti-Iraq campaign.

The United States itself has committed upwards of 200,000 troops.

Baker said U.S. military objectives were to deter an Iraqi attack on Saudi Arabia and to ensure the effective implementation of the U.N. sanctions.

Baker made a strong pitch for Congress to support a Bush administration proposal to cancel Egypt's \$7.1 billion military debt to the United States.

"Strong congressional endorsement of Egyptian debt cancellation would provide Egypt with critical economic relief and send a powerful and timely signal that the United States stands by its friends," Baker said.

The United States has backed

Beirut's 'green line' torn down

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Syrian bulldozers Wednesday flattened parts of Beirut's green line which has divided the capital for 15 years while France and Lebanon sought to settle a row over the fate of General Michel Aoun.

"The Berlin Wall of Beirut is collapsing and soon the country will be united once again," said Ali Mokdad, a militia official.

"Now the Lebanese army is in charge. I will look after my business and take care of my wife and children... our (militia) role has ended."

President Elias Hrawi's government has ordered local banks to freeze Aoun's funds and began arrangements to request the freezing of his deposits abroad, a newspaper reported.

The prestigious Al Nahar, which attributed the report to unnamed government officials, did not disclose further details.

Police said government and Syrian troops were redeploying in Aoun's former enclave in the

U.N. may send mission despite Israel's rejection

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies)

Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Wednesday if he did not receive requested clarifications from Israel by Thursday, he would make a decision anyway on whether to send a mission to probe the massacre of Palestinians in occupied Jerusalem last week.

"I think a reasonable time for them to answer will be no later than tomorrow," he told reporters.

If no response was received to questions he put to Israel's U.N. envoy Monday about what facilities would be available to the proposed mission, "I will draw my own conclusions and take my second decision," he said.

His first decision, to dispatch a

Tunis meeting opens

TUNIS (AP) — The 21-member Arab League convened an emergency meeting Wednesday night at the request of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to discuss responses to the massacre of Palestinians last week in occupied Jerusalem.

According to some sources, the PLO was asking Arab states to raise \$40 million to finance a general strike by Arab workers in Israel.

Seven Arab states sent their foreign ministers to the meeting. The others were represented by their Tunis-based ambassadors to the league. (See page 3)

mission, was taken last week before the end of the month. Israel rejected the resolution as biased, saying it took no account of the stoning of Jews in the area.

(Continued on page 3)

PLO warns of use of arms for defence

By Ghadeer Taber
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) warned Wednesday that it would resort to any means, including the use of arms, to defend Palestinian territories if the international community fails to protect them.

Bassam Abu Sharif, political advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, said that if the United States blocks any resolution by the United Nations Security Council to take concrete measures to protect the Palestinians, then the PLO Executive Committee will "seriously discuss the best ways and means to defend them which might include the use of arms."

"Patience has limits and I think we have reached the

limit," Abu Sharif told a press conference. "We cannot possibly continue to watch Israeli soldiers indiscriminately shooting at our people without giving them the necessary means to defend themselves," he said.

The PLO official's remarks came in the wake of Israel's massacre of over 20 Palestinians at Al Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem on Oct. 8 and its refusal to cooperate with a U.N. investigation into the killings as called for by Security Council Resolution 672.

Ahu Sharif said the PLO had decided to step up the resistance in the occupied territories. So far this had excluded the use of arms but it would be considered if Israel persisted in

Ramadan arrives in Sudan

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Taha Yassin Ramadan, Iraq's first deputy prime minister, arrived Wednesday on a two-day official visit to Sudan.

Ramadan said in an arrival statement that he would meet with head of state Omar Hassan Al Bashir and other Sudanese officials to discuss the Gulf crisis.

He said he believed cooperation between Arabs could "halt an attack by the imperialists and crusaders on the Arab region."

Ramadan arrived here from Tunis.

It was his second visit to Tunis in three days.

Ramadan has been touring North Africa with messages from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and to discuss the Gulf crisis with heads of state.

He saw Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali in Tunis Sunday and it was not known whether he met him again Wednesday.

King Hassan II of Morocco met with Ramadan in Rabat Tuesday.

The king also held a round of talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, who was in Rabat to attend a meeting of an Islamic committee on Jerusalem.

Arafat, Saud meet in Rabat

TUNIS (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal in the Moroccan capital Rabat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) news agency WAFA said Wednesday.

Tuesday's meeting was the first at this level since the Gulf crisis brought about a sudden deterioration in relations between Saudi Arabia and the PLO.

WAFA said Arafat and Prince Saud discussed "the serious situation in the Gulf and the need to reach a political solution in an Arab framework and under a U.N. umbrella." The two men were in Rabat for a meeting of the Jerusalem Committee of the Organisation of Islamic Conference Monday.

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U.S. Congress showers gifts on Israel

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional friends of Israel have tacked provisions that could be worth hundreds of millions of dollars into last minute money bills, with little or no public discussion.

The benefits, apparently intended to counterbalance gestures by the U.S. government for Egypt and Saudi Arabia, range from gifts of unneeded Defence Department equipment to a \$15-million refurbishing of Israel's port at Haifa.

President George Bush is seeking to forgive \$6.7 billion in military debts Egypt owes the United States, and has sought congressional permission to sell \$7.5 billion of weapons to the Saudis, with another \$14 billion expected to be requested in January.

The gestures, intended to reward both Arab countries for their cooperation in the Gulf crisis, have raised worries among Israel's supporters that the United States might be tilting away from its closest ally in the Middle East.

Spurred by those developments, backers of Israel put provisions into the defense and foreign aid appropriations bills for the fiscal year which began Oct. 1.

Many of the new benefits re-

present creative ways to quietly increase aid to Israel, already the largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid, without budget impact.

One new provision would make Israeli firms eligible for contracts under the Defence Department's overseas workload programme, which provides more than \$200 million for local service and maintenance of military facilities and equipment.

The bill directs the department "to identify and develop new specialised capabilities in depot maintenance and repair in Israel," possibly including the maintenance of U.S. F-15 fighter planes.

Another provision would give Israel, along with Turkey, first choice of excess defence equipment no longer needed by the U.S. military.

It would also establish a new 4.5-million-barrel strategic petroleum reserve in Israel, valued at about \$180 million to which Israel could have access if war threatened.

The foreign aid bill would position some \$200 million in new U.S. military stockpiles in Israel and provide \$42 million to continue development of Israeli anti-ballistic missiles.

It also calls for a study of ways the Defence Department could

award future defence contracts to Israel.

Israel would also get permission to use up \$200 million of its \$1.2 billion in economic aid for military purposes as long as the crisis continued.

Israel could also receive \$1.7 billion of its \$1.8 billion in military aid within 30 days of the beginning of the fiscal year.

The World Jewish Congress (WJC) a major American Jewish group, signalling its anger over Bush administration criticism of Israel, said Tuesday it would launch a campaign to stop the United States from sending billions of dollars in military aid to Saudi Arabia.

The World Jewish Congress (WJC) said it would oppose both a \$7.1-billion emergency arms bill now before Congress and an additional \$14-billion measure that the administration says it will introduce in January.

The move marks a break in what has been muted opposition among American Jewish groups over the administration's plan to arm Saudi Arabia.

Kalman Sultank, a WJC vice president, said the organisation will ask the 38 U.S. Jewish groups that belong to it to oppose the arms bills and will also seek international Jewish support for the

move. The WJC is an umbrella group representing Jews in about 70 countries.

"We are opposing all arms sales to Saudi Arabia because they will endanger lives. Sales of arms to Saudis will not deter (Iraqi leader) Saddam Hussein and will only ensure that American soldiers will have to be there," Sultank said.

Sultank cited Kuwait as an example in which billions of dollars in Western arms were wasted by either being destroyed or taken by Iraq.

He also said the WJC decision was linked to U.S. support for a United Nations resolution condemning Israel for the killing of Palestinians during demonstrations in Jerusalem last week.

"We support the general Bush administration policy on the Gulf but we will not let Israel become a sacrificial lamb to it," he said.

"Arms sales to Israel ensure that American troops will not have to go there and die for them. Arms sales to Saudi Arabia have the exact opposite effect."

Spokesmen for other U.S. Jewish groups said that while they are not happy about the administration's plan for massive weapons sales to Saudi Arabia, there has been little outspoken opposition to the emergency package.

Arab parliamentarians call for Arab solution for crisis in Gulf

PUNTA DEL ESTE, Uruguay — (Agencies) Arab delegates to an international conference for parliamentarians called for an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis Tuesday during a debate on a motion condemning Iraq for its takeover of Kuwait.

Arab legislators pleaded for another chance to solve the crisis on their own while a committee of the 48th inter-parliamentary conference at this Uruguayan seaside resort chose 11 countries to draft a final proposal condemning the Iraqi invasion.

Moroccan and Palestinian delegates called for an end to the United Nations trade embargo against Iraq and for the withdrawal of U.S. and NATO troops from the Gulf.

Morocco's Mohammed Al Yazghi said the U.S. intervention in the Gulf area had stifled an Arab solution to the crisis. "But we must not tip an Arab solution in the bud because Arab leaders are already working on the problem," he said.

Palestinian delegate Abdallah Abdallah said a peaceful solution to the conflict should not be written off and asked the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to send a delegation to Baghdad to analyse alternative peace solutions.

The Iraqi delegation said the parliamentarians were not analysing the crisis objectively because they were not taking into account other regional problems like the Palestinian problem and the presence of Syrian troops in Lebanon.

"We are ready to negotiate conditions for peace and the end to the trade embargo," Iraq's National Assembly Vice President Ghanim Aziz Khadouri said. "If this fails, the consequence will be war and the total destruction of the area."

Khadouri later told Reuters Iraq might eventually discuss pulling out of Kuwait but said the condition for such talks was the immediate withdrawal of U.S. and NATO troops from the Gulf region.

He added that Iraq believed a solution could be found by the countries in the region and said differences among Arab states could be ironed out.

"All the Arab delegations are in favour of an Arab solution and far from a foreign military intervention," he said. "The Arab divisions took place after the American intervention, when the U.S. sought to settle things by force."

Over 400 legislators from more than 100 countries at the six-day conference voted to debate the proposal to condemn Iraq, tabled by the French delegation.

A European delegate said the final proposal would be along the lines of United Nations resolutions condemning Iraq and said it was almost certain to be approved by the conference.

The conference is also due to vote on a motion presented by Italy calling for support of a U.N. resolution condemning Israel for the killing of Palestinians in Jerusalem last week.

Britain, U.S. work on more U.N. resolution

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Britain is drafting a Security Council resolution to make Iraq compensate nations for economic losses suffered as a result of its invasion of Kuwait, diplomats said Tuesday.

The United States is drawing up another resolution on the resupply of isolated Western embassies in Kuwait City, they said.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher raised the idea of Iraqi compensation when she visited the General Assembly last month.

Baghdad would only be liable for compensation, not punitive reparations, said British diplomats, speaking on condition of not being named.

Countries such as Jordan, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and others that have suffered serious economic losses could apply for compensation out of Iraq's foreign assets, which have been frozen, or from future oil earnings, they said.

British Ambassador Sir David Hannay and French Ambassador Pierre-Louis Blanc said Tuesday that the reparations proposal has not yet been discussed with the other council members with veto power — China, the Soviet Union, and the United States.

That indicates that action is not likely until next week at the earliest.

Hannay is president of a Security Council until the end of October. U.S. Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering assumes a rotating post in November.

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker applauded the idea of requiring war reparations, but said it is more urgent to send food and water to isolated diplomatic missions in Kuwait City.

"We would like to see prior given to a humanitarian resolution on the resupply of food and water and basic necessities of life to those in embassies in Kuwait including diplomats," Baker said.

Western embassies in Kuwait City have had their water, electricity, and resupply shipments cut off by the Iraqis, who said diplomats should move their operations to Baghdad.

"We'd like that resolution passed promptly, and that resolution is under discussion at the United Nations as we speak here today," Baker told reporters.

He also said the United Nations should consider a resolution that "spoke to the question of war crimes responsibility."

U.S. President George Bush suggested Monday that Saddam Hussein should be tried by a war crimes court similar to those faced by Nazi officers after World War II.

Carter: Americans will pay high price for war in Gulf

BETHLEHEM, Pennsylvania (Agencies) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said if sanctions or negotiations fail to end the Gulf crisis, Americans would pay the toll with human lives and higher oil prices.

If Iraq doesn't want to negotiate, there's not much good news, Carter said.

"We ought to maintain the sanctions very strictly and hopefully this will induce Iraq to withdraw," Carter said during an address at Moravian College.

"That would be my first preference, obviously, but I don't think the odds are with that."

Much of the damage could have been avoided, if the United States had followed a tight energy policy through the 1980s, Carter said.

The amount of imported oil dropped from 48 per cent of the U.S. supply to 33 per cent during his term, but is now back up to 50 per cent, he said.

Carter said even if the multinational force in Saudi Arabia decided to attack Iraq, some Iraqi missiles would get through and could destroy some Saudi oil fields.

"Oil could go from \$40 a barrel to \$70 a barrel in a week and we'd sit here fat, dumb and happy, not doing anything about it," he said.

With America's continued military presence in the Gulf and with a number of people saying a military strike could work, the chance of fighting is still high, he said.

"The Saudis are ready to attack Iraq. The Israelis certainly want us to attack Iraq," he said. "They don't make any bones about that."

Carter visited Moravian College to receive the school's Commencement Medal, awarded since 1982 to individuals who have influenced education.

Carter, in an interview with Reuters, also said he believed firm U.S. leadership was needed to help solve the Arab-Israeli conflict which in turn could help defuse Gulf tensions.

"If the decision is made to go to war, it's going to be much more serious in my opinion than is generally accepted by the news media or by those who are advocating a quick strike or surgical bombing or (who talk of) the inadequacies of the Iraqi defence

capabilities," he said.

Carter said it would be a major blunder for the United States to invade Kuwait on its own because "the Soviet Union has made it plain they would not approve unless the invasion is under a United Nations banner."

"I have serious doubts that the Chinese who have veto power would approve... I don't think even our own government has explored that question," he said.

Carter, who mediated in talks between Israel and Egypt that brought about their 1979 treaty, said he saw the Arab League as the only group that could negotiate a Gulf settlement acceptable to both U.S. President George Bush and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"I think if the Arab League could work out a solution that would be suitable for them, then both Saddam and President Bush could yield on some of the past adamant statements they have made," he said.

Carter said the Bush administration had failed to see the importance of Jordan and King Hussein in a Gulf solution. "I think we're almost attempt-



Jimmy Carter

ing to destroy the nation of Jordan and we're ridiculing King Hussein or condemning him to such an extent that he's been robbed of some of his influence," he said.

He said the depth of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict made peace in the region far more difficult.

Carter said the people of the Middle East want peace but "their leaders are so embedded in the ancient animosities and hatreds," that the United States must be involved.

The United States wants to avoid linking the "Palestinian issue" to Kuwait, he said, but "there's a persistent demand on the Arab side, even (among) those who are our so-called allies."

Alcohol banned in Algerian tourist hotels; Gulf ferry boycotted

ALGIERS (AP) — Islamic fundamentalists have forbidden two hotels near the tourist Kabyle region from serving alcohol and are seeking "virtuous and balanced" managers to run them.

The fundamentalists, elected in June to the provincial council of Bouira east of the capital, said Tuesday that they are rectifying conditions of "debauchery and immorality" at the hotels.

Potential financial losses at the hotels in Lakhdaria and Sour Al Ghazlane, whose patrons include mostly foreign tourists, do not outweigh the need to ban alcohol, the fundamentalists said.

The hotels are frequented mostly by foreigners on their way to the rugged, Berber-speaking Kabyle region, one of this country's main tourist attractions.

The ban comes as part of a scattered campaign by local and regional councillors of the Islamic Salvation Front to impose Koranic law and areas they won in elections June 12.

The fundamentalists swept the country's councils in Algeria's first free elections since independence from France in 1962 and are the leading party going into legislative voting next spring.

Algerian dockers meanwhile refused to unload the French ferry Napoleon because it had previously transported French soldiers and military equipment to the region.

The dockworkers delayed the ferry's unloading by two hours Tuesday as "a sign of solidarity with Iraq," a union official said.

Last Friday, several thousand Algerians marched to the U.S. embassy, burned an American flag and demanded that U.S. troops leave the Mideast.

Also on Tuesday, former President Ahmad Ben Bella described the government, led by Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche as an unpopular "system of bandits and thieves" in a radio interview.

Ben Bella, 73, Algeria's first president, returned to the country Sept. 27 after 25 years of imprisonment and exile beginning with a military coup that toppled him in 1965.

He repeated Tuesday that he has no designs on the presidency held by Chadli Benjedid.

But if democratic reforms become blocked, Ben Bella said he would respond to a call by the people to serve as a transition leader for up to a year.

"I don't believe that men who distinguished themselves by more than two decades of authoritarianism can suddenly transform themselves into great democrats," he said.

Bloody riots driven by economic desperation in 1988 forced Benjedid to open the one-party rule of the National Liberation Front (FLN) to democratic reforms.

Ben Bella has expressed desire to weld a democratic coalition among the 28 political parties against the FLN.

But his return by ship from exile in Europe last month did not draw the groundswell of popular support his populist Movement for Democracy in Algeria party hoped.

Tension between Kabul and Islamabad increases

KABUL (R) — Afghanistan has accused Pakistan of blatant interference in its internal affairs and warned of the possible serious consequences after some of the most powerful Afghan guerrilla commanders met last week in northern Pakistan.

The Pakistan chargé d'affaires in Kabul, Fida Younus, was summoned to the foreign ministry late Tuesday and given a strong letter of protest.

The Afghan government accused Pakistan of "blatant interference in the internal affairs of the country and gross violations of the Geneva agreement

under which Soviet troops were withdrawn from Afghanistan in February 1989."

Kabul cited new contacts between Islamabad and Mujahideen field commanders as well as the recent arrests of alleged Pakistani spies as examples of Pakistani interference.

Guerrilla sources in Pakistan said Sunday that 40 powerful commanders, including the legendary Ahmad Shah Massoud, had met and decided to oppose an outright assault on Kabul in favour of attacks on smaller cities.

Marine says he would rather protest than fight

HONOLULU (AP) — A U.S. marine awaiting court-martial for refusing to go to Saudi Arabia says his spirit is buoyed by protests on his behalf, advice from veteran peace activists and cookies from home.

"I was prepared for the worst a couple months ago, but it looks better now," Corporal Jeffrey Paterson, who is restricted to his base, said Tuesday. "My only regret that I'm not out demonstrating instead of sitting here doing supply work."

Paterson, who is seeking conscientious objector status, refused to go to Saudi Arabia Aug. 29 with his unit. The 22-year-old from California is charged with unauthorized absence and disobeying orders.

He has been restricted to the Kaneohe Marine Corps air station since a federal judge ordered him released from the brig on Sept. 21.

"I get stressed sometimes, but my friends help me," he said. Paterson said he was pleased with demonstrations held on his behalf in several U.S. cities Tuesday.

"I think it's good if it builds momentum for Saturday's mobilisation," when peace groups throughout the country plan to

demonstrate against U.S. intervention in the Gulf, he said.

Demonstrators in Washington poured oil in front of the American Petroleum Institute and read a message from Paterson, who urged them to chant, "Hell no, we won't go; we won't fight for Texaco."

Small protests also took place in Houston, Seattle and Honolulu.

Paterson, a marine for four years, filed for conscientious objector status Aug. 17, two weeks after Iraq invaded Kuwait and the United States began its military buildup in the Gulf. He said then that he opposed interventionist policy and did not want to fight for "the price of oil."

"My father has been going up and down the California coast making speeches, and my mother has been sending me cookies," he said.

A preliminary hearing is to be held Thursday, at which time a date for the court-martial probably will be set, he said. If convicted, he could receive more than five years in prison and dishonourable discharge.

Of his fellow marines, he said, "some hate me and some think I'm a good guy."

Opposition to boycott Egyptian polls

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's opposition is threatening a boycott of parliamentary elections next month in a bid to force the pace of slow but steady political reform.

The opposition Wafd Party decided Tuesday not to contest the Nov. 29 polls because there was no guarantee they would be fair, Chairman Fouad Seragudin told Reuters.

A senior Wafd official who asked not to be named said the Muslim Brotherhood and two other parties, Labour and the Progressive Unionists, planned to join the boycott and would announce the decision at a joint press conference Sunday.

The Liberal Party was debating a similar step, he said. The boycott plans throw down a challenge to President Hosni

Mubarak.

Since President Anwar Sadat was assassinated in October 1981 Mubarak has built on "liberalisation" his predecessor began, removed many fetters from the press and allowed the number of recognised parties to grow to nine.

At the last election in 1987 Mubarak's National Democratic Party won a big majority in the 458-member parliament.

The opposition took just over 100 seats, with 61 won by an alliance between Socialist Labour and the illegal but officially tolerated Muslim Brotherhood.

The National Democratic Party is expected easily to keep its majority.

The president is counting on a new parliament to approve an accord with the International

Monetary Fund that economists say include new doses of unpopular austerity.

He called the Nov. 29 poll after a referendum approved the dissolution of parliament, which the supreme court had ruled was elected under unconstitutional rules.

Wafd officials said a majority of the party's 50-man higher council approved the boycott decision in a four-hour meeting on Tuesday, arguing that the government had rejected demands essential for a fair election.

They said the government drew up new election laws without seeking opposition views, rejected complete judicial supervision of the polls and refused to suspend emergency laws before the vote.

The new law reduces the number of seats to 454, abolishes

party lists and divides the country into a larger number of smaller constituencies.

The Wafd says the new constituencies have been gerrymandered to give Mubarak's party an advantage.

3 Britons flee Kuwait

DHAHRAN (AP) — Three British men have escaped overland from Iraq to Saudi Arabia, Western diplomatic sources said Wednesday.

The three men took a lengthy route across the desert and arrived near the Saudi town of Arar late Monday, said the sources, speaking on condition of anonymity.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programme
17:10	Book of Adventure
18:00	News summary
18:10	Local programme
19:20	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Local series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Local programme
22:20	Arabic film
22:30	News in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Cartoons
18:10	Motorsport
18:40	Documentary
19:00	News in French
19:15	Documentary
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varieties
20:00	News in Arabic
21:10	Pride and Prejudice
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature film: "Child in the Night"
PRAYER TIMES	
04:19	Fajr
05:37	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:21	Dhuhr
14:34	"Asr
17:05	Maghreb
18:22	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish Tel: 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Association Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Ternate Church Tel. 623646	
Church of the Association Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 771331	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assiut International Church Tel. 827981, 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932	
WEATHER	
Bullish supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
The Kingdom will be under the effect of unstable weather conditions, which will make dusty and partly cloudy with a chance for thunder showers. A drop in temperatures will occur while winds will be southeasterly fresh becoming at times southeasterly. In Amman, it will be dusty and partly cloudy and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be southerly fresh and seas rough.	
Min./max. temp.	
Amman	16 / 29
Agiba	20 / 36
Deir	17 / 32
Jordan Valley	23 / 35

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Khalidun Klob	826919
Dr. Muhi Qaqish	898101
Dr. Jamal Abu Bakr	746426
Dr. Tayseer Khadr	696537
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Natroukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salim pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsi pharmacy	637660
IRBID:	
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakr	(—)
Al Shamsi pharmacy	(985238)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Mubashir Hujwaj	(—)
Khalifah pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence immediate	630341
Rescue	630341

Shreeganj Hospital	669131	18:30	..... New Delhi (RJ)
University Hospital	648458	18:30	..... Cairo (RJ)
Al-Muhammar Hospital	669132	18:45	..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (P 1)
The Islamic, Abadai	669127/37	18:55	..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
Al-Ahli, Abadai	664164/6	17:25	..... Larnaca (RJ)
Italian, Al-Muhammar	777107/3	17:30	..... London (RJ)
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafkhan	775111/26	18:00	..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
Agar, Madra	89161/1/5	19:30	..... Agade (RJ)
Queen Aia Hospital	632240/50	19:30	..... Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
Amal Hospital	674153	20:10	..... Casablanca (RJ)
ZARQA:		20:45	..... Rome (RJ)
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983231		
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)991071		
Rn Sine Hospital	(09)966732		
ARRIVALS			
Princess Beama Hospital	(02)272555	08:20	..... Riyadh (add.) (SV)
Green Catholic Hospital	(02)222775	12:30	..... Sanaa (LH)
Rbn Al Nafesa Hospital	(02)247200	13:30	..... Riyadh (SV)
AQABA:		16:00	..... Istanbul, Ankara (LH)
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111	16:35	..... Amman (RJ)
		16:35	..... Dubai (EK)
		18:00	..... Muscat, Balala (GP)
		18:35	..... Cairo (MS)
		18:50	..... Amsterdam, Istanbul (KL)
		19:15	..... Frankfurt (LH)
		20:10	..... Zurich, Larnaca (SR)

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)3220-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

18:15 Riyadh (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

11:45 Rome (RJ)

12:00 London (RJ)

12:15 Paris (RJ)

14:00 Larnaca (RJ)

17:15 Agade (RJ)

20:25 Rome (RJ)

Anani urges return to the land to ensure food security

AMMAN (Petra) — A leading Jordanian economist is urging the government to give attention to the land to ensure food security for the country under the present difficult circumstances.

On the political front there is a strong need for the Arab Nation to continue to link the Gulf crisis with the Palestine issue so that solutions can be found for both, according to Jawad Al Anani, a former minister and

former president of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) told a seminar held in Zarqa that the Western nations were risking a devastating war in the Gulf that would trigger economic and social problems worldwide.

He said that Jordan, as a country most hurt by the Gulf crisis for its implementation of U.N. Security Council sanctions on Iraq, with which it had strong economic links, is more eligible for

compensation than others.

The economist expressed the view that the Gulf crisis had aroused nationalist feelings among Arabs, many of whom had shelved their national causes while enjoying the luxurious commodities that swamped their markets in the past.

Among those attending the seminar were Parliament members Salameh Ghweiri and Ziyad Abu Mahfouz.

Jordan appeals to IPU to help end occupation of Arab lands

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has appealed to the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) to help evict American-led foreign forces from the Arabian peninsula and end the Israeli occupation of Arab land.

"The presence of foreign forces in the Arab lands constitutes a revival of the colonial era, with a far more brutal image since these forces are depriving Iraqi children of the right to medicine and food," Jordan's delegate to the IPU meeting in Uruguay said in an address Wednesday.

Amin Shuqair told the meeting that the United States had created the Jewish state in the midst of the Arab World to serve as a strategic ally and help foreign domination of the Arab region.

"The United States has been constantly supplying weapons to

the Israelis and encouraging them to expand and annex Arab land in Palestine and Lebanon in a flagrant violation of the U.N. Charter and international principles and laws," Shuqair said.

He said that Washington's role in imposing hegemony on the Arabs became obvious when it massed its land and naval forces in the Arabian peninsula and the Gulf. He said Washington found in the Security Council's resolutions a pretext to send troops to the Gulf, but was tightlipped about its own invasion of Grenada and Panama.

The Jordanian Parliament and people, he said, strongly condemn the presence on Arab land of foreign forces who came to consolidate Western control over oil wealth and Israel's control of the Palestinian land.

Arab League to discuss situation in occupied lands

TUNIS (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem arrived in Tunis Wednesday from Rabat to take part in the Arab League's emergency meeting called to discuss the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

The meeting will discuss means of protecting the Palestinian people in accordance with international conventions.

Qasem attended a meeting in Rabat, organised by the Higher

Committee on Jerusalem, which discussed the massacre of Palestinians and ways of stopping Israel's atrocities.

The higher committee, which was set up by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), called for sanctions against Israel for rejecting a U.N. Security Council inquiry into the Jerusalem massacre.

In an address to the committee in Rabat, Qasem called for setting up a special Islamic fund to

finance the purchase of the property threatened with confiscation by the Israeli authorities. He said that the Israelis had already confiscated Arab homes and land.

The fund, he said, could be used to finance the restoration of Islamic and Christian holy places.

The committee, which comprises delegates from Arab and Islamic countries, is chaired by King Hassan of Morocco.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Mubarak thanks King for cable

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received a cable of thanks, and appreciation from Egyptian President Mohammad Hosni Mubarak in reply to a cable of condolences the King had sent over the death of speaker of the Egyptian People's Assembly Ri'fat Al Mahjoub.

Cabinet appoints governor

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet has appointed Maj. General Qasem Al Faraya as governor at the Ministry of Interior. Faraya has just been retired from the intelligence service.

Greek ambassador ends tour of duty

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran received in his office Wednesday Greek Ambassador in Amman Hannibal Velladias at the end of his tour of duty to the Kingdom.

Abul Huda receives Sudanese minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport and Communications Nabil Abul Huda received Wednesday Sudanese Minister of the Expatiates Affairs Othman Mahjoub and discussed with him bilateral relations and ways to promote them. Mahjoub thanked the Jordanian government for facilitating the process of providing accommodation for Sudanese evacuees coming from Iraq and Kuwait during their stay in Jordan and for providing the necessary services for them.

Suhelmat chairs meeting on national gallery

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Mayor Ali Suhelmat Wednesday chaired a meeting of the committees entrusted with following up the establishment of a national gallery. Participants at the meeting discussed the guidelines that govern the works of the technical and the organisational sub-committees. The technical committee will be entrusted with conducting studies on archaeology, national heritage, documents and manuscripts, geology and the environment while the organisational committee will prepare the gallery's organisational structure.

Jordanian delegation leaves for Baghdad

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian parliamentary delegation left for Baghdad Wednesday to take part in a meeting by the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) due to open in the Iraqi capital Thursday. The delegation is led by Parliament Speaker Salehman Al Awad who is accompanied by members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament. The APU meeting will be dedicated to discussing the current situation in the occupied Arab territories following the recent massacre of Palestinian worshippers in Jerusalem.

JUST to attend Greece conference

RAMTHA (Petra) — Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) will take part in the 19th conference of association of pediatricians in the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean region, which will be held in Greece Friday. The university has recently taken part in an international pharmacists' conference held in Istanbul, Turkey.

Yarmouk University to attend Yemen conference

IRBID (Petra) — Yarmouk University will take part in an Arabic language and contemporary Arabic literature conference to be held at Aden University in Yemen next week. Representing the university in the three-day conference will be Dr. Bassam Qattous and Dr. Faisal Safa. Qattous will present a paper on the stylistic shift in Al Bardooui's poems, while Safa will discuss in his paper contemporary Arabic syntax. The university will also take part in a scientific seminar on the writing of the history of Arabs to start in Damascus University, Syria, on Oct. 23. The university will be represented in the three-day conference by Dr. Abbas Amsaout.

Health centres to stay open Thursdays

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Mohammad Addoub Al Zabon Wednesday issued a circular to health centres and health departments around the Kingdom notifying them that health centres should remain open on Thursdays unlike the ministry in Amman. The ministry is closed Thursdays in compliance to a Cabinet decision to close government offices on Thursdays and Fridays to help save energy. The minister said that there were special arrangements for keeping health centres functional, with doctors and nurses working in shifts.

Cement prices go up

AMMAN (J.T.) — Cement prices are to go up by 11 per cent as of Thursday (Oct. 18, 1990) in view of the rise in the price of fuel and electric power used to produce the cement, according to announcement by Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Fariz. The announcement in practice raised the price of each tonne of cement by JD 4 to reach JD 39 for the consumers and construction businesses.

Reorganising plans scrapped

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Municipality has scrapped plans for reorganising a district in North Amman and announced that it would revise the whole project. The scrapping of the original plan was prompted by angry public complaints to the Municipal Council that it would harm the interests of people living on 6500 dunams of land. The original plan had aimed at creating a new housing estate affecting areas around the town of Tareq, to help absorb some 200,000 inhabitants.

8 killed, 190 injured in road accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of eight persons were killed and 190 others injured in road accidents which happened in the Kingdom in the past week, according to a Public Security Department (PSD) statement. It said that a total of 364 accidents occurred in the country during the past week damaging 563 cars. The statement cautioned motorists to take extra care while driving along highways which nowadays are exposed to dust storms which reduce visibility. Amman, as usual, took the lion's share of the accidents, accounting for 207 of the total number.

U.N. mission

(Continued from page 1)

and announced it would not cooperate with any U.N. inquiry in a city that Israel regards as its undivided capital.

This prompted the secretary general to ask Israeli U.N. Ambassador Johanan Ben to clarify what facilities a mission might be granted.

British sources said nearly all 15 Security Council members had urged the secretary general to despatch the inquiry group, regardless of Israel's attitude.

Asked about pressure from Security Council members to send his team, the secretary general said: "They can urge but my decisions are my decisions and it is for me to decide. The members of the council, of course, are interested in seeing things moving."

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker urged Israel Tuesday to cooperate with the U.N. probe and expressed concern that failure to do so would draw comparison with Iraq.

Baker told a news conference he hoped could resume the low-profile role it took on when the Gulf crisis began and Washington forged an international coalition against Iraq.

A senior Israeli diplomat has proposed that President Bush and Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir should meet quickly to deal with strains in relations between the two countries.

Oded Eran, the deputy Israeli ambassador who soon will return to Israel following an eight-year stint in Washington, said Tuesday "it's the dialogue" that is missing from U.S.-Israeli relations.

"There is a need for trying to erase some of the residues that have been created," he said.

The Yedioth Ahronoth daily suggested Shamir had told Bush in a letter Israel would bar U.N. envoys from visiting Jerusalem holy sites, which would include Haram Al Sharif, if they arrive despite the Israeli boycott.

Hawkish Israeli Housing Minister Ariel Sharon said Tuesday that Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Teddy Kollek, would be wrong to receive a United Nations mission investigating the bloodshed in Jerusalem.

"I think he is wrong," Sharon said.

Book on Jordan presented Saturday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The new book about Jordan entitled "To Jordan," written by the wife of the former Italian ambassador to Jordan, Vladimira Rossi Longhi, and an Italian reporter, Giuseppe Recchia, will be formally presented on Saturday Oct. 20, at the Royal Cultural Center.

The book, a journey through Jordan from past to present, will be presented to world leaders after its total completion as a token of world peace, and in an

effort to promote greater understanding among nations.

The book includes interviews with His Majesty King Hussein, Her Majesty Queen Noor and members of the Royal family. It also includes interviews with people from all walks of life.

The book nominates His Majesty King Hussein for the Nobel peace prize for his unrelenting efforts to achieve world peace, obvious in the recent Gulf crisis, and Jordan's humanitarian role in extending a helping hand to the evacuees.

SSC marks anniversary

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Social Security Corporation (SSC) marked its twelfth anniversary by announcing that nearly 577,000 workers employed by the private and the public sectors benefit from the SSC.

SSC Director-General Mohammad Al Saqqaf said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that since establishment the corporation provided benefits to 187,000 citizens in the form of compensation, pension and insurance services for occupational injuries.

The SSC pays monthly pensions to 9,145 citizens and the total amount paid since the SSC's establishment has amounted to JD 21 million, Saqqaf said.

He said that 121,000 citizens benefited from the lump sum compensation programme when they retired. These citizens have received a total of JD 40 million since 1978. He said that last month's total lump sum compensation amounted to JD 800,000.

A total of 57,000 workers have

been medically treated for vocational injuries at the total cost of JD 6 million since the corporation became operational, Saqqaf added. He said that SSC deals with nearly 700 cases of occupational injuries every month and pays for the cost of treatment.

Since its creation, Saqqaf said the SSC's total expenses amounted to JD 68 million. He said the SSC's income was increasing through returns from investments in various socio-economic projects in Jordan.



People's Army training continues throughout the Kingdom (Photo Yousef Al 'Allan)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Science in Profile" at the British Council.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Jordanian, Iraqi and other Arab artists at Alfa Art Gallery, 1st Circle.
- ★ The Hamid Hamada exhibition of fine handicrafts, weavings and quilts at the Abu Jaber Estate, Yarmouk.
- ★ Exhibition by Jordanian artist Omar Al Shayeb at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of photos from the Goethe-Forest (between Taffieh and Shebek) by Sigrid Neuber at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ Arts and crafts exhibition by Jumana Awad at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel.

OUR THANKS

On behalf of the Sri Lankan evacuees who arrived in Jordan we wish to extend our sincere gratitude and heartfelt thanks to

His Majesty King Hussein, Her Majesty Queen Noor,
His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Her Royal Highness Princess Sarwat, His Excellency Prime Minister Mudar Badran,
 the Jordanian government, the citizens of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Ministry of Interior, Public Security Department, IOM, EEC, UNPRO, WFP, MECC, IRC, JRC, staff of the Queen Alia International Airport and all other donors for the excellent cooperation, kind hospitality and valuable assistance that was extended to our dear Sri Lankan evacuees during the time of distress to get back to their motherland safely.

Sri Lankan community in Jordan
 P.O. Box 182633 - Amman.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Talk peace not war

THERE are persistent reports that Iraq is willing to compromise and talk peace to resolve the Gulf crisis. First hint of this move towards compromise came in the wake of talks that Yevgeny Primakov, a member of President Mikhail Gorbachev's presidential council, held with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on October 6. The semi-official Soviet news agency Novosti has reported that Baghdad would withdraw from Kuwait in the context of a comprehensive peace and security arrangements, but Iraq would not withdraw from the Rumaila and the islands of Warba and Bubiyan on which there has been a long-standing territorial dispute between Iraq and Kuwait. Mr. Primakov is now on his way to the U.S. to brief Washington on his efforts with the avowed objective of soliciting U.S. encouragement of this metamorphosis in the Iraqi position. Yet amidst these early encouraging signs, both President George Bush and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher are going out of their way to nip the peace process in the bud.

First President Bush resorted to artificial dramatization to pull the rug from under the Soviet-French initiatives by citing the allegation that children in Kuwait were removed from their incubators and youth were killed in cold blood by Iraqi soldiers for distributing leaflets. These, President Bush concluded, constitute war crimes at par with the Nazi war crimes and therefore Saddam Hussein and his assistants should be tried before a Nuremberg-type international tribunal. This kind of analogy with Nazi crimes should send shudders to other Western capitals and to Tel Aviv which have constantly viewed the Nazi crimes unparalleled in contemporary times.

How many Palestinian youths have been shot in cold blood in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and before the very eyes of their parents? Why has the U.S. president been blind to these atrocities and has never equated them with Nazi crimes? We do not. But it looks like someone should brief President Bush on the Nuremberg trials before he and Mrs. Thatcher get carried away with their personal and blind vendettas against Iraq and its leadership. How President Hussein and his government can ever be provoked to move forward when Bush and Thatcher are literally calling for his head is a serious question that has to be asked. By so raising the stakes in the Gulf, the U.S. and British leaders are excluding all options except that of war. Obviously both have elections on their minds. Thatcher seeks to repeat her performance in the Falkland Islands by hoping to capitalise on a military adventure in the Gulf. While Bush may seek to deliver on his big military investment in the Gulf, otherwise he might be seen as a loser. In all cases, the two Western leaders are also attempting to deflect world attention from what is happening in Palestine and refocusing it on the Gulf again.

Fortunately there are other major capitals in the world which can still rescue peace efforts in the Gulf from imminent death. Paris and Moscow are holding on to their sane posture and appear determined to hold on to the peace option. They need all the support and encouragement that they can get in order to avert incalculable disaster from happening in this part of the world.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

The American president is currently waging a crusade and escalating a hostile campaign against Iraq and demanding that Saddam Hussein be put on trial in an international court for his war crimes, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. But it seemed that President Bush has a weak memory or he does not read history books which are full of atrocities committed by the United States in war and peace time either directly or through its puppet state in occupied Palestine, the paper noted. It said that we would like to see an international court convening to try war criminals: the United States, Britain and Israel for their crimes committed against the world in general and the Arab Nation in particular especially during the colonial years and over the past four decades in Palestine. The United States seems to have forgotten that it was American nuclear bombs which devastated two Japanese cities, killing civilians and not Japanese troops and that, its war machine which devastated Vietnam, said the paper. The American forces used to pay \$50 for each head of a Vietnamese man or woman, and used napalm and other mass destruction weapons to kill innocent children and to raid hospitals and residential areas in Vietnam, and Latin American countries which the U.S. armed forces invaded like Panama, the paper pointed out. For its war crimes in Nicaragua, Washington was ordered to pay \$12 billion but not a single cent has been paid so far, while U.S. intelligence services pursue all sorts of atrocities in Latin American countries, the paper added. Britain, which planted Israel in Palestine and the Jewish state which continues to occupy Palestine and the United States which supplies Israel with weapons to kill Arabs are all war criminals said the paper. It said that a court to try the criminals should soon begin, and justice must be done.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily, voices support for the Ministry of Labour's warning to private sector companies which have lately resorted to arbitrary dismissal of employees, and calls on the Ministry to follow up this warning by enforcing the labour law with all it entails of penalties on the violators. Nazki says that banks, financial institutions, hotels and other private sector organisations which are now dismissing employees without any justification are doing this under the pretext of difficult economic conditions, and they are dismissing people who have never committed any violation or shirked duty. The writer notes that these companies and firms find in the employees a scapegoat, and are getting rid of people who had been instrumental in earning a great deal of profit for the companies in better times when the same employees received no good reward for their dedication and faithfulness. The Labour Ministry, says the writer, should stop such arbitrary action by the private sector organisations which tends to harm society, increase the army of unemployed Jordanians and cause sufferings for innocent families.

Carter: King Hussein has to be recognised as key leader in Gulf settlement

The following article, by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter appeared in Time magazine of Oct. 22.

HARDENING positions make a peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis ever less likely. How can we make the best of this situation and heal the fractured region when the crisis is over?

Despite bold and concerted action of the U.N. Security Council, a remarkable demonstration of leadership by the U.S. in marshalling forces to defend Saudi Arabia, world condemnation and economic sanctions, there are no indications that Saddam Hussein is considering a withdrawal from Kuwait or the return of the emir's family. With oil-price increases disturbing the world economy and with patience wearing thin, the world will inevitably turn to other issues, making it difficult to increase

or even sustain the present level of economic pressure. If Saddam does not yield, the forced ejection of Iraqi troops by military action is the only remaining option. Some also advocate the destruction of Iraq's war-making capability, speaking of almost bloodless "surgical" air strikes, the incompetence or disloyalty of Iraqi troops, sustained worldwide support if the U.S. invades without U.N. sanction, and a more stable Middle East after Iraq is destroyed. These assumptions are doubtful. Military forces of America and its allies can surely prevail, but there will be serious human, economic and political costs.

It is incongruous to exalt Iraq's military threat while disparaging the competence of the Iraqis to defend their own land. The inability of either side to prevail in eight years of seaway battles across the Iraqi-Iranian border supports the claim of military strategists that a 3-to-1 advantage is necessary for invaders. Martyr-

dom among devout Muslims must also be considered.

There is little doubt that an attack on Iraq without further provocation from Saddam will erode U.S. support in the Middle East. The Arab League is already split down the middle, with at least nine of its members, including some that offer lip service to the U.N. resolutions, giving overt backing to Iraq. Iran is, at best, equivocal. Saddam tries to build on this support with appeals based on brotherhood, religion and the Palestinian cause. It is interesting to note that he has never criticised his Syrian brothers for sending forces to Saudi Arabia, nor has he built up troops along their common border. Most Muslim believers are uncomfortable with Western troops in their holy lands, Iraq's propagandists also remind poor Arabs, both individuals and nations, that oil-rich royal families have invested almost a trillion dollars in the Western world. They

publicised the recent loss by a Saudi prince of \$130 million at a European roulette wheel in one night. Armed conflict can exacerbate all these concerns and may unleash a violent grassroots reaction.

Another sobering fact is that international support is not solid. Beginning with the Helsinki summit, the Soviets have indicated that they will support only a U.N. military action (which is subject to a Chinese veto). Also, they continue to connect Iraq-Kuwait and Israel-Palestine issues.

So far, the Bush administration has not acknowledged the need for negotiations or exploratory talks, which might imply weakness or a willingness to reverse adamant public statements. Initiating peace talks is always difficult, as we remember from Korea and Vietnam. Only unconditional surrender following a total military victory can remove the need for negotiated settlements.

No matter what happens in

the next few months, including total capitulation of Iraq, we should be preparing for a time when negotiations will be required. There are few intermediaries who might expedite this process: U.N. officials; French, Soviet or other allies of ours; or leaders among the Arab countries. Any of these would be suitable, but my own preference is the Arab community. Soon after Iraq invaded Kuwait, an Arab plan was offered in Paris, Moscow and other places. It called for Iraq to be replaced by other Arab troops in Kuwait, a U.N. or Arab force to relieve Western forces in Saudi Arabia, and then a referendum to be held under international supervision to let Kuwaitis decide their own future. These initial ideas are unacceptable by either side, but later modifications may lead to peace.

Among Arab leaders, King Hussein of Jordan can play a key role. He is an honourable and peace-loving man who

does not deserve the harsh treatment he is receiving. He has supported the U.N. resolutions that demand foreign troop withdrawal from Kuwait, the return of the emir and his family, and the imposition of economic sanctions. The King made these decisions even though Jordan shares a vulnerable border with Iraq and many of his countrymen support Saddam Hussein. Now the Jordanian monarch faces the loss of financial assistance from Saudi Arabia and others. The very survival of his country is endangered. It would be a tragedy to permit the further destruction of Jordan. Even if other intermediaries serve, a stable Jordan will be needed in the future. A much better alternative would be for King Hussein to be recognised in the U.S., as he has been in other countries, as a key leader who, at an early stage, might help bring about a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis—when and if it is understood that this is the only alternative to war.

Western media coverage of Jerusalem massacre:

Sinister bias or simple ignorance?

By Nadia Abdulhadi-Sukhtian

AS any student of mass communications knows, the effective use of misinformation relies not on the conscious distribution of wild lies, but rather on the subtle and hardly discernible omission of a fact here and there, or, in the case of places and sites having more than one name, the usage of one name at the expense of another.

This has lately been demonstrated by some Western news media in their headlines when reporting about the tragic massacre of Palestinians on Oct. 8 in occupied Jerusalem.

In regard to the unbelievably atrocious killings of unarmed Palestinian demonstrators at the steps of the Al Aqsa Mosque, considerations about who reports what and how seem somewhat banal and superficial in connection with the terrible suffering and loss of human life. But the implications of these considerations for the rights of the Palestinian people, when it comes to having their cause justly and correctly represented in the Western press, are of far-reaching consequences.

Ever since the tragic events of Monday, Oct. 8, some Western news media have been referring to the scene of the brutal and cold-blooded killings of unarmed civilians at the Al Aqsa Mosque and the

Dome of the Rock as the "Temple Mount." This is equivalent to reporters insisting on referring to their headlines to New York City as New Amsterdam, at best.

With the usage of "Temple Mount" they are creating the impression that Monday's events took place on a Jewish site thus casting doubts and suspicions on the legitimacy of the motives, fears and grievances of the Palestinian demonstrators in the listeners' minds.

But, it is a fact, that the Haram Al Sharif (literal translation: Holy Sanctuary), which the Jews call "Temple Mount," lies in occupied Arah Jerusalem and houses two of Islam's oldest and holiest mosques, the Al Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock, from which the Prophet Mohammad ascended to heaven. They have been there for over 13 hundred years. The significance of the Al Aqsa Mosque to Islam becomes clear when one recalls that it was this Jerusalem sanctuary that Muslims faced during prayers in the early days of Islam.

It is also a fact that the march towards these mosques in occupied Jerusalem by Jewish fundamentalists calling themselves "Temple Mount Faithfuls" constituted an extremely provocative and threatening act, taking into consideration that in the past there had already been an attempt by a "madman," as the Israelis described him, to destroy the Al Aqsa when he set the interior of the mosque on fire—Israel has, it seems, as the recent bloodbath of workers from Gaza by another Israeli "psychopath" suggests, great difficulty keeping its "madmen" under control.

The Israelis have for many years been digging tunnels under the foundations of the two mosques in search of remnants of their "temple" exposing the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque in unforeseeable dangers.

Apart from the fact that Israel's lax attitude, when it comes to the protection of Arah Muslim and Christian religious properties in occupied Jerusalem, is unacceptable from the point of view of religious tolerance, the numerous attempts by Jewish fundamentalists to "re-claim" the Haram Al Sharif and the dangerous underground diggings are equally unacceptable in accordance with the principles laid down by UNESCO, the United Nations organisation that seeks to guarantee the safe-guarding and preserving of buildings and monuments of historical and cultural significance to the civilisation of mankind.

Furthermore, it is also a fact that it is the Israelis who closed the doors of the Al Aqsa last Friday, preventing people from entering the mosque for prayers for the first time in its thirteen centuries-old history.

Lastly, we hardly need mention, that it has been Israel's policy, in defiance of resolutions taken by the world community, that gradually sought to Judaize Arah Jerusalem with an incessant stream of Soviet Jewish immigrants into the Holy Land, while the world's attention is focused on the military buildup in the Gulf.

Yet, despite all of this, some Western news media still use the word "Temple Mount," giving the average Western radio listener and reader, who probably has no detailed knowledge of the localities of the holy places in Jerusalem, the impression that the area is devoid of any significant historical or religious monument, the very impression Israel would like to see implanted in peoples' minds, when in fact the Haram Al Sharif dominates Jerusalem's landscape in such a way that it cannot be overlooked, even if one wanted to.

For the sake of fairness, it should be said that some editors in news rooms in Europe or the United States might not be aware of the political and historical background of events

shaping our region, whereas others might openly sympathise with or support Israel's policies.

Whatever the case, this kind of reporting is dangerous considering the power Western news media have in shaping Western public opinion, and considering that this type of one-sided information is reminiscent of how this same Western public opinion was, in the past, moulded into believing and supporting the false slogans of the early Zionist movement: "A land without a people, for a people without a land"; a slogan that in one sentence denied the existence of the Palestinian people in its entirety together with their heritage, culture and civilisation on the land of Palestine, creating the impression that the land the Jews were immigrating to was empty. We know where this has led to.

Today, by using the term "Temple Mount" once again, reality is twisted, the Palestinian demonstrators last Monday are presented in such a way as if it were they who were challenging and intruding into a "Jewish" site, and not the other way around.

Misled in this fashion, the average Western TV viewer or radio listener has no way of knowing that the Palestinians at Haram Al Sharif are today defending their right of access

to their centuries-old places of worship in their own land. He has no way of knowing that they are, with last Monday's events, struggling to keep the doors of their mosques open, in the same way they are fighting to keep open the doors of their schools and universities in the occupied territories, and in the same way they have been fighting for their basic human rights and for a state of their own. For this fight they are paying dearly, day in and day out, with deportations, imprisonment, torture, and with their own lives.

When, therefore, some Western news media with their powerful grip over Western public opinion refer to the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock as "Temple Mount," they are denying facts, helping Israel create false impressions in people's minds, which often only seems one step away from creating real facts accomplished on Arab lands.

Taking sides in this manner is journalistically unprofessional and does not serve the truth. And this is something that really does not baffle global news networks, assuming of course that they are interested in the principle of attaining and maintaining global credibility.

The writer is a post-graduate in political science. She contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

Little indication Iraqis feel threatened

By Dilip Ganguly
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — There's a strange feeling of normality in Baghdad as the men and machines of war-mass along the Gulf and across the desert in readiness for a showdown with Iraq 11 weeks after its invasion of Kuwait.

Restaurants on the banks of the Tigris River are full until at least 9 p.m., serving the speciality of baked fish. Bars stay open a couple of hours later.

Street lights are on all night, making Baghdad a sitting duck for an air raid.

There's little indication that this city of 4.5 million people feels threatened.

"It's a strange, psychological build-up where many just can't perceive that anyone can attack Baghdad," said an Asian diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity. "There is either a total noncomprehension of the seriousness of the situation—or many Iraqis just don't care."

On an Iraqi Airways flight from Amman, Iraqi children clapped and chanted "watan, watan" ("homeland, homeland") as the Boeing 737 touched down at Baghdad's Saddam Hussein International Airport.

There was a scramble to get out of the plane, packed with Iraqis returning home and Palestinian residents of Kuwait.

"Do you see a war fear?" asked an Iraqi businessman returning home from Amman, the only city still connecting Baghdad with the rest of the world after the United Nations-imposed air blockade.

"We are prepared for war but not afraid of it," he said.

In downtown Baghdad, another Iraqi pointed to the window pane in his office. "Look at this," he said. "During the war with Iran, we used to tape them so that splinters don't come, but now there is no tape."

Baghdad residents proudly tell stories of how they lived through eight years of war with Iran. But many don't seem to comprehend the arsenal at the disposal of the multinational forces camped in Saudi Arabia and patrolling the waters of the Gulf.

"You may call it Arab sense of fatalism," said an Iraqi, who like most people here, did not want to be identified.

"They're used to the atmosphere of crisis, but maybe they are underestimating the real power of the soldiers sitting across the border," he said. "At least I know that if a war breaks out, it will not be one of the weekend skirmishes. It will be serious, but aren't we prepared?"

There is little visible civil defence preparedness in Baghdad. Very few soldiers are seen in the open, except to check a passing vehicle occasionally.

Taxis ply by the hundreds. At the Sheraton Hotel, there was a wedding party complete with a Western-style band and dancing Sunday. The women, many with glittering jewellery and brightly coloured silk and synthetic dresses, swirled slowly around the floor with men in suits and ties.

Anti-aircraft batteries are invisible from the ground, but hotel

guests are told not to try to go to the top floors, which supposedly are closed for maintenance.

Behind the calm and surprising cheerfulness, there's an intangible sense of unease that has been a hallmark of Baghdad for years.

Spontaneous laughter is rarely heard. No one seems to joke. There are no foreign newspapers, books or magazines. Facsimile and telex machines are forbidden. Overseas telephone calls must be placed through operators at the local exchange.

The two-channel television is full of reports of support for President Saddam Hussein and programmes on how to grow more vegetables and raise poultry.

Food markets are open and doing steady business, but there are few takers at shops selling shoes and clothing.

"The food shortages are affecting, no doubt, but it is not biting yet," said one Iraqi. "We are getting used to the idea of eating less than the body needs. At the same time, no one is dying of hunger and there is no fighting over food."

In the bazaar, shops still have stocks of canned food, including beef, corn and peas. Pepsi Cola seems to be everywhere, selling for about two dinars (60 cents) a can. Fruit, mostly apples and oranges, are much scarcer.

The government, in an effort to thwart the blockade, has rationed nine items: rice, sugar, wheat, cooking oil, tea, soap, laundry detergent, dried beans and powdered milk.

Embargo raises doubts, unanswered questions

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Despite unprecedented international cooperation, doubts are growing over a U.S.-led economic embargo meant to force Iraq to give up Kuwait.

For the first time since the United Nations banned trade with Iraq on Aug. 6, a public opinion poll published on Tuesday said a majority of Americans doubted that the economic embargo would work — a feeling shared by some of Washington's closest Arab allies in the Gulf.

U.S. President George Bush and key aides, including Secretary of State James Baker and Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, have repeatedly spelt out the broad aim of the embargo: "Bring Iraq to its knees."

But precisely what that means has not been defined. Unlike military planners in the Gulf crisis, siege strategists have yet to come up with a detailed scenario for the destruction of the Iraqi economy and some experts say that important assumptions about the effect of economic sanctions are based on wishful thinking.

"If you are looking for a blueprint, a step-by-step plan for economic collapse, forget it," said an official close to the sanctions committee. "It does not exist."

Even sceptics concede that the embargo, the tightest peacetime siege in modern history, will create serious difficulties for a country that depended on revenues from its oil exports to import most of its food, industrial spare parts and military equipment.

The embargo cut off exports and ended imports. An international armada patrolling the Gulf has so far tracked and questioned more than 1,700 vessels suspected of carrying forbidden cargo for Iraq. The U.S. navy boarded 170 ships.

Following up on its original embargo, the United Nations on Sept. 25 imposed a ban on air cargo — the standard method of importing electronic spare parts for Iraq's Soviet and French-made combat planes and for its small manufacturing industry.

Before Aug. 2, when Iraq launched its blitzkrieg into Kuwait, industrial goods accounted for less than 15 per cent of Iraq's gross national product.

According to Western diplomats in Baghdad, who privately tend to take a dimmer view of the effectiveness of sanctions than their governments, neither the air force nor Iraq's huddling industry are essential for survival.

U.S. officials say they expect the embargo to have a cumulative effect — slow chain re-

soms that will make life increasingly difficult as the sanctions begin to bite.

Though there have been precedents of economic embargoes being decisive in international conflicts, scholars studying sanctions say economic turmoil has helped destabilise governments and hasten their downfall.

One example frequently cited is Chile's Salvador Allende, who died in an army coup after economic troubles, compounded by what Allende supporters called covert U.S. interference, plunged the country into near-chaos.

Another case is Idi Amin of Uganda, whose troubles worsened with an embargo on coffee, the main export commodity.

Whether sanctions could destabilise Iraq is open to doubt.

Solid estimates of how long it might take for the embargo to begin to hurt are made virtually impossible by the absence of reliable data: in a society as closed as that of Iraq, stockpiles of food or spare parts are treated as strategic secrets.

So are data on foreign currency reserves and the amount of gold and cash.

U.S. experts agree that limited amounts of food and goods are trickling across centuries-old smuggling routes,

Jordan Times WEEKENDER

Published Every Thursday

Oct. 18, 1990

Project seeks to preserve Salt's architectural heritage Historic city bowing to modern times

By Nur Sati

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — From the days of the Ottoman Empire to the early 60s, Salt — which was the major town in Jordan — was highly respected because of its rich history, architecture and greenery. But now, in the late twentieth century, historic and beautiful Salt is succumbing to modern life and its demands, which in turn are placing the old buildings under new stresses.

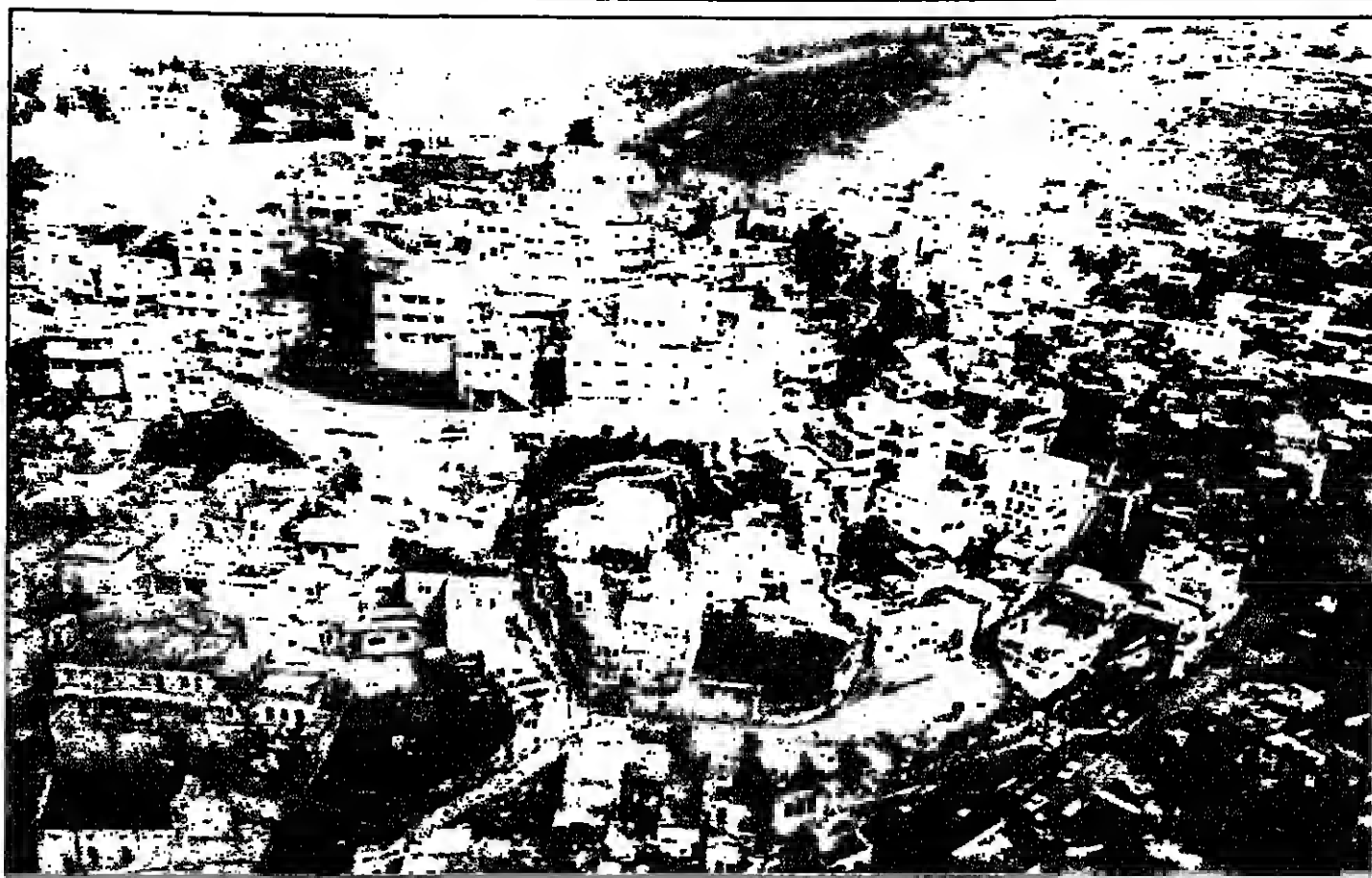
One of the groups keen on preserving Salt's uniqueness is the Building Research Centre (BRC) at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) which has just concluded a two-year project designed to prepare a handbook on "Architectural Heritage in Jordan."

The aim of the project entitled preserving Jordan's architectural heritage, its buildings and cultural value, as well as recording architectural features and typology through photographs, slides and drawings. Ranwa Al Khatib, team leader of the project, said: "Our aim is not to develop things, but, rather, to record them for students and other interested people so they can have valuable tourism and historical information."

The project consisted of three stages of which the first was to define the extent of area around Salt that should be preserved and make proposals for the development of that area. The second stage involved picking around 20 buildings, documenting them and then going through the city of Salt taking notes on the materials used, taking photographs, and sketching plans. "From these plans, we extracted the information to develop the typology," Khatib said.

"Finally, we put all the material collected into larger frameworks such as the history, the people who belonged to the land, as well as information useful for tourism," she added.

During the project, the BRC team was able to study the main features of Salt. Stairways were found to be common since Salt is built on hills. Street facades and arches are also typical. But, Khatib said, "the most unique feature is the yellow stone" otherwise known as the "golden" stone. Because the stone is made of soft material, it is easily carved and we noticed some very interesting



Aerial view of the historic city of Salt

details on the buildings." For example, rather than having plain straight corners, the buildings were rounded at the corners and engraved with busy, minute details. By the same token, entrances to the houses were an important aspect of the design, with arched doorways and pillars on the sides. Patios in the centre of the house were also a common feature.

These marked features were created by proficient people who worked hard at creating a utopian city. Around 1886, an exodus of traders from Nabulus entered Salt in the hope of settling there. Amongst the influx of traders were many builders with considerable skill and with the merging together of the professional Nabulus and the Salts — who took the time and effort to learn from them — they were able to enhance the city's architectural beauty.

The 1930s saw a period of economic revival where the people began "showing off" by importing new materials and spending more on houses. To a certain extent, the architecture of Salt influenced that of Amman when the capital city was moved here from Salt. The tradesmen who had built Salt moved to the new capital and "this was where things really started to

change," Khatib said. When the builders settled in Amman, they sold their belongings to the poorer families who had chosen to remain in Salt. "They did not appreciate the art of architecture nor did

they have the money to spend on maintaining the buildings. Everything then began to erode," she added.

Unlike Amman, however, Salt has kept most of its old buildings and to many experts

this generates pride in a city so dense in history, culture and architecture.

Unfortunately, the demands of the twentieth century are putting traditional and conventional buildings in jeopardy and families in Salt are changing the characteristics of the city by tearing down their old houses and transforming them to make them more suited to today's life.

According to the people who now live in Salt, Khatib said, they are feeling more and more that the old buildings are no longer suited to the modern ways of living and their needs, therefore, are not being met. For one thing, the lighting system does not conform to today's trend where brighter lighting has become a norm. Tall old buildings take much more to heat than do the modern, cozy looking ones and so the families often complain about "not having the money to change all the systems around as well as keeping the maintenance," said Khatib.

"This seems to be a huge setback because the yellow stone, due to its softness, absorbs water which increases the dampness in the building, making conditions ideal for fungus to develop, even in the hottest of climates," Khatib says.

What the BRC is doing in this project is explaining to

the families the importance of old buildings and how to adapt to the old houses without changing the modern way of living," Khatib added: "At the same time we have put forward recommendations and incentives to the Ministry of Rural Affairs so that the people of Salt would be encouraged more to preserve the traditional style of the town."

According to the BRC, one of the recommendations was to expropriate the buildings that are rich in history and architecture and use them as touristic facilities. "This way the people would have their contemporary houses while the traditional buildings would be preserved," Khatib said.

Another encouraging proposal the BRC put forward was to provide incentives such as tax deduction and financial support, as well as issuing pamphlets to highlight the importance of maintaining traditional buildings. The BRC also proposed having a specific day in the year with slogans about preserving buildings, as well as seminars on this subject.

Since the founding of the city of Salt, many developments have taken place aimed at bettering the city. Beginning from the Stone Age and continuing through the Hellenistic and Roman eras, the Abbasids and Crusaders — to name a few influences — all contributed to leaving marks of their own cultural characteristics.

When Emir Abdullah Ibn Hussein established the Emirate of Transjordan in Salt, many more modern changes began to take place. According to the BRC publication, the municipality installed the first sewerage system in 1928. In the late '30s a famous public bath was demolished because of lack of clients and shops were built in its place. In the early 60s buildings and shops were demolished by the municipality in order to widen the streets. Stone pavements in many streets were crushed giving way to asphalt pavements. So, slowly but surely, traditional and historic characteristics were being erased with the changing times.

Now, concerned specialists say, "it is a pity to see Salt being transformed into a modern town. There seems to be very little left of its rich history, but it is not too late to preserve what is left of what was once a rich historical town."

Some mid-crisis thoughts

By Mohammad Zakaria

- Whenever a Palestinian howled that his country had been snatched in broad daylight, for reasons beyond his comprehension, they pointed a schoolmistress finger at him, chiding that he was thinking in terms of conspiracy.
- They labeled him "paranoid".
- Some Palestinians desperately pleaded that even a paranoid had enemies.
- Quoting Henry Kissinger. You had to cite some Jewish source to attain some credibility.
- But they smiled sheepishly at the palestinians, implying that the class of truths involved was beyond the reach of Third World intellect.
- All along we had assumed conspiracy to involve machinations in dark corridors, with an output so subtle it defied simple detection.
- But the plan summarised in the letter of former U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia James Akins lacks any degree of finesse.
- It would have amounted to a run of the mill act of brute force, which while reminiscent of the days of the Tartars, would have drawn little intellectual interest.
- But the plan should not go unnoticed.
- Notice that Kissinger was its engineer.
- He sacked Akins because he had a different view.
- Our gratitude for James Akins should be emphasised.
- Many people have prided themselves in having attended Kissinger's Harvard seminar on international relations.
- I'm glad I haven't.
- With a plan like the one in Akins' letter I would have talked about Kissinger's seminar in much the same way as you would mention doing time for an improper act.
- Not to mention Kissinger's English.
- Sounds like a duck with acute laryngitis. And a German accent.
- Anyone else would have reminded the American people of Adolph Hitler.
- But Kissinger is beyond reproach. You know why.
- As Akins argues, the plan is far-fetched.
- The U.S. has never wanted to have direct control of the oil fields. They have always had their uncanny way, more or less.
- But Kissinger had been worried about the Arabs getting suddenly rich and influential.
- Never for one moment did he have the interest of the U.S. in mind.
- But the "security" of Israel always pressed on his mind like a platinum yarmulke.
- The U.S. would be most foolish to seek control of the oil fields now. Because with them it would have to control all the Arabs.
- Call it what you like (paranoia, thinking in terms of conspiracy, anti-Semitism, a neo-holocaust, etc.) many Arabs seriously subscribe to the view that the U.S., at least in its Middle Eastern operations, is an instrument of Israeli foreign policy.
- Iraq's takeover of Kuwait has meant only one thing for Israel: an ever growing and menacing Iraqi military force.
- Ordinarily Israel would have handled Iraq, as it has its neighbours in Syria and Egypt.
- But this is logistically non-feasible for reasons of non-proximity. The best that Israel could hope for is limited air raids on Iraqi targets.
- Someone had to be placed at Iraq's door, knocking as the king of Israel decreed.
- A smart person will never experience "shocked disbelief".
- An average person is entitled to it only once.
- If you make a practice of it... I am sorry.
- How many instances of "shocked disbelief" at U.S. behavior have the Arabs experienced?
- I have just received this communication from Reagan: Is well, what do you take me for? I have always known that Kuwait is in the Arabian desert off the Siberian coast.
- I am sorry I can't dismiss Akins' letter from my mind, even at the risk of belonging in three points above.
- Even if the plan had been given only the most off-handish consideration by the president, it should be most alarming to us and indeed the whole world.
- How did our leaders do the pilgrimage to the White House, pursuing peace prospects there, with the plan anywhere in the president's files?
- How did they feel secure to shake hands with American officials? To eat White House food? To sleep in U.S. government guest houses?
- Genocide! And the victims, of all the people, would have been the Saudis.
- America's best friends in the Middle East (Israel is no friend of America).
- The Saudis who had for two decades sold oil to America at \$1 per barrel.
- The Saudis whose intellectuals sincerely looked up to America as a source of inspiration, a symbol of progress and civilisation.
- Even the red Indians are looking aghast!

1st major hunt in 3 years begins for Loch Ness monster

DRUMNADROCHIT, Scotland (AP) — The first major hunt in three years for the Loch Ness monster is being held this weekend in response to an offered prize of £250,000 (\$477,500).

The William Hill Organisation Ltd., one of Britain's biggest bookmakers, has offered the cash the first person or team to discover conclusive evidence of the legendary creature's existence.

Based at the village of Drumnadrochit near the northern shore of the Scottish highlands lake, four groups are taking part in the search. They range from serious contestants to publicity seekers.

Iain Bishop, deputy keeper of the Zoology Department of the Natural History Museum in London, will examine any evidence found on behalf of the oddsmakers.

The oddsmakers stand to make money through bets placed on Nessie's existence stimulated by publicity surrounding the search.

William Hill, which like other bookmakers has been taking bets on Nessie for years, is the first bookmaker to offer a prize.

British bookmakers get most of their business from the horse race betting but unlike oddsmakers in some other

countries they can and do take bets on almost anything. Another prize of £1,500 (\$2,865) will go to the team or individual judged to have the best search method. Heading one of the teams is Andy Gray, managing director of the Scottish company OceanScan, which supplies underwater sonar equipment for the North Sea oil industry. He said they are confident they can find anything uncommon with their sophisticated underwater radar. "We can pick up a coke tin at 20 metres in zero visibility at full depth," he said. "Typically this system can work at 1,000 metres beneath the sea. If Nessie comes within our search scan, we will find it." Loch Ness is 754 feet (230 metres) deep, 23 miles (37 kilometres) long and a mile (1.6 kilometres) wide. A second team calling itself the Rovers said it is using remote-controlled underwater vehicles fitted with cameras to try to track the monster. Londoner Daniel Isted, editor of a corporate in-house magazine, said he was using what he called "crystal divination," suspending a tormaline crystal over the inky waters of Loch Ness from a yacht to try to find the beast. He said the horse race betting but unlike oddsmakers in some other

Thursday, Oct. 18

9:10 Pride and Prejudice

Marriage and matchmaking plots continue unabated, with Jane now engaged to Mr. Bennet's friend Lady Catherine's wishes.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie of The Week

Shining: Jobeth Williams — Tom Skerritt

The boy Luke witnesses his father's murder. The police inspector summons the services of "Jacky" the psychiatrist to help the shocked boy talk. And only through hypnosis Jacky makes the boy remember the killer before the killer almost gets to Luke.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Friday, Oct. 19

9:10 Shakespeare

10:00 News in English

10:20 Tanamers

The war is over. Johnny goes back to Singapore where Julia is waiting for him. By now all parties concerned facilitate their marriage except Julia's cousin who kidnaps her and asks for a ransom.

Saturday, Oct. 20

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Feature Film

The Last Glory Of Troy

The film focuses on the events that paved the way for the emergence of the Roman Empire.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Cont. of the Feature Film

Sunday, Oct. 21

9:10 Documentary

The Secret History Of Oil

The oil cartel was getting stronger and stronger... and to ensure its hegemony over the oil countries... the British and the French, at the turn of the century, sent their agent Lawrence to the Middle East, to do the job.

10:00 News in English

10:20 The Paper Man

Looking at the Stars

In this third episode, Philip Cromwell starts a Sunday newspaper and his troubles really start when his chief editor tackles "hot issues."

Monday, Oct. 22

9:10 Shannon's Deal

Inside Straight

10:00 News in English

10:20 Murder She Wrote

Jessica Fletcher delves with you into the world of wit, scheming... and murder.

Tuesday, Oct. 23

8:30 Documentary

Zimbabwe

This documentary tells us the colonial history of Zimbabwe which began in 1890, when a British General occupied it until its liberation in 1980. The liberation war is given special attention.

9:30 French Feature Film

Starring Alan Delon

After a business meeting concerning an important sale of arms, one of its participants is attacked on the road and left for dead. A professional gambler comes to his aid, unaware that he is involved.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Cont. of the Feature Film

Wednesday, Oct. 24

8:30 One Foot in the Grave

When that familiar Monday morning feeling strikes, spare a thought for Victor (Richard Wilson), the unhappy hero of this bittersweet new series. He's been forced to retire, but instead of enjoying all that free time, he finds being a pensioner carries its own hideous drawbacks. People seem to think that the next stop is death, and they're treating him just like a child.

9:10 Perspective

10:00 News in English

10:20 Family of Spies

The continuing story of espionage and intrigue.

When you gotta go, go home

By Maha Addasi

IF you think that public restrooms are unclean, then your thought is the understatement of the century. Because, if you pick out any public restroom at random you will find that not only is it unclean, but it is also scummy, unhygienic, and possibly a dependable source of natural gas.

The other day, I was assigned to cover a news item at an educational institution. I felt that before starting my interview, that I should go to a restroom, to avoid the embarrassment of having to gallop out of the room mid-question, if the interview took too long.

When I found the ladies' restroom I walked in, only to be met by three pairs of astonished eyes.

"How did you get in," one of the ladies said. "I turned the door handle and walked in," I answered. "But you shouldn't be in here, this is not for students," another lady said.

"I am not a student," I explained.

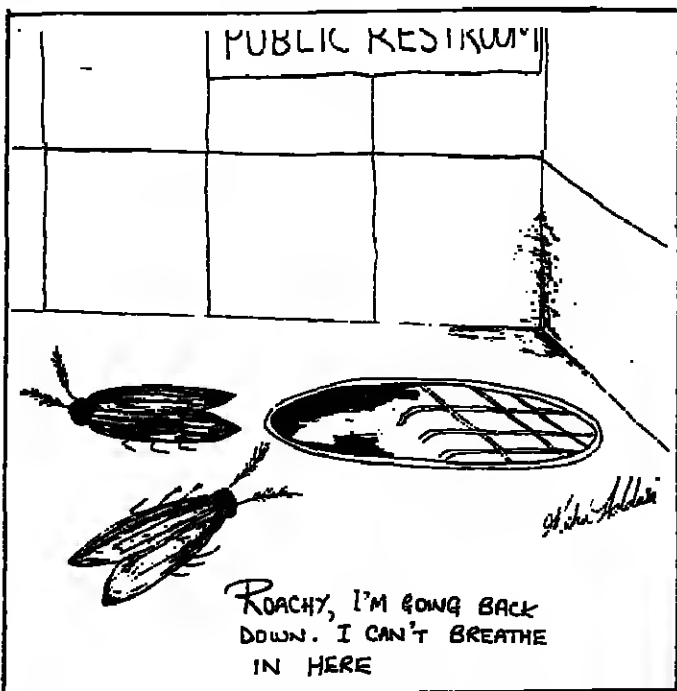
Then I started to look around to see what was so special about this restroom. The ladies in there, who were staff members, made it seem like I had found the secret trapdoor leading to a treasure.

But this restroom was like all the rest. It had not been cleaned since the Halley's Comet before last, it had some form of algae growing on part of a damp wall, and of course all the sinks there were dripping. On the floor was some water, flowing from a mysterious source (that is better kept mysterious). Not a single cubicle had toilet paper in it. And all the cubicles represented the perfect incubators for germs, making this restroom one of the most dependable ways for the spread of certain diseases.

So why were these ladies so protective of their domains? Don't ask me.

I was personally very disgusted and left immediately. I was grateful that this time I had a choice, and I opted for another restroom.

The students' restroom was, if that was ever possible, worse than the previous one with the most obnoxious odour one could ever come across. I suggest that this horrible smell is bagged and placed in hospital emergency rooms to be used to awaken people who have fainted. In fact, it could be a medical breakthrough, if the "odour bags" are used to awaken comatose patients, they just



might wake up!

I turned on my heels and decided that I could wait. (I must admit that I contemplated knocking on the staff restroom and shouting, "let me in," but decided not to). I couldn't help asking myself what on earth they clean these restrooms with? Never mind. I don't think I want to know. But when? OK skip when. Who cleans them?

Cleaning bathrooms could be made into one big business. Huge trucks could be brought in to scrape the walls. Then an excavation team would study the fossilised insects found there. These insects could go way back to the stone age; and one could learn a lot from studying them.

Now I know why I can't hear anything on the intercom that is in airport restrooms. The high buildup of dirt.

Meanwhile, something should be done about the signs that say "public restrooms." They should read, "Stop!" "Danger!" "Think Again!" Public Restroom ahead. Or they should be cleaned up, at least once. Please.

Until then, if nature calls while you are in a public place. You have the right to just say No!

B.C.

BY JOHNNY HART

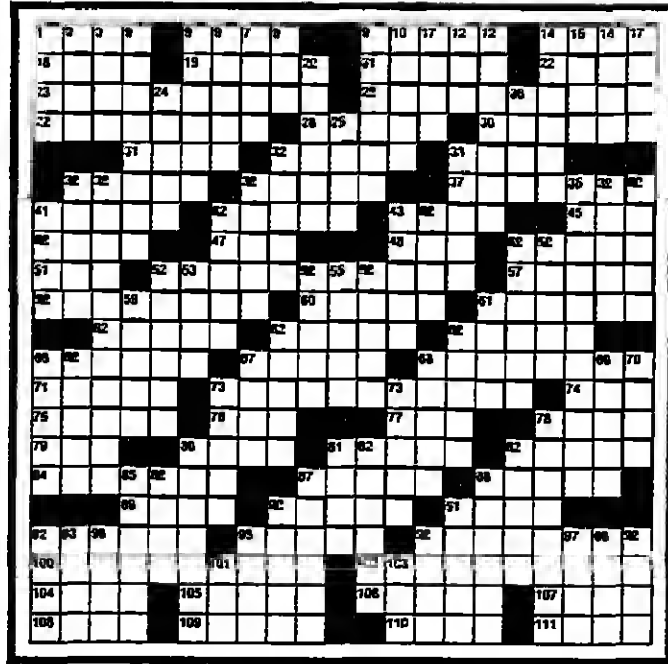


Weekend Crossword

Calley Proofs?
By Louis Sabini

- ACROSS**
- 1 Diamond
 - 2 Bats or Paton
 - 3 Hat material
 - 4 Outside
 - 5 Odds
 - 6 Links targets
 - 7 Hostess
 - 8 Brewer's choice
 - 9 Pressed or kiason
 - 10 Lassies
 - 11 Elec. output
 - 12 Linen lace
 - 13 Race distance
 - 14 More wanting
 - 15 Be, liver
 - 16 "Jelly on her"
 - 17 Parched
 - 18 Hung
 - 19 Harsh
 - 20 Geometric figure
- DOWN**
- 1 "So, that's it!"
 - 2 Joke
 - 3 Body of water
 - 4 Gr. marketplace
 - 5 Eating places
 - 6 Money for capture
 - 7 Hele
 - 8 "Go-well"
 - 9 Jell
 - 10 Used the ice
 - 11 TV's Sawyer

- 32 "— mol ai deluge"
- 33 Furniture wood
- 34 "— Irish Rose"
- 35 Avarice
- 36 Trembled
- 37 Western author
- 38 Jazzy drummer
- 39 Sassy
- 40 Shoo!
- 41 Palm leaf; var.
- 42 Nasty look
- 43 Yoko
- 44 Behave
- 45 Case of way
- 46 Culp
- 47 Food holders
- 48 Squander
- 49 Veteran
- 50 Dictator
- 51 Settled down



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. For those plaid guys and gals who would have fear of success, prosperity is harder than adversity.
2. Big-hearted ballroom star offered fading wallflower one last chance to dance with him.
3. Pet must be spanked when he tracked some mud onto new car carpet.
4. You can carry a fox to a mail box, but not an ox.

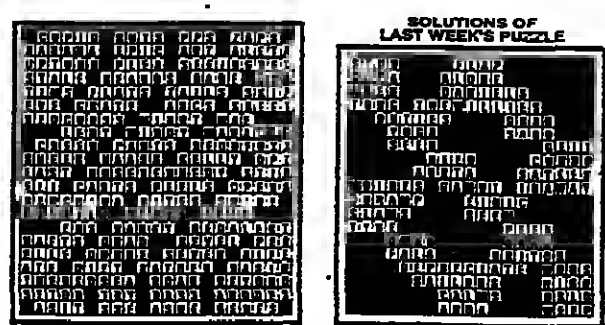
CRYPTOGRAMS

1. JYX ELTHCBZKB KLJEBB AKBK UY TLJME QU
MYUJKBQ AQE JEX MEKKDKCBZKB
KLJQZ MELTXQYV. — By Earl Ireland

2. CT KXAKFL VEZ NZSSNQB LFCRTW VRBQ
XZI LKFFRFWF PCQ TZL TRONKWCBBQ HK
C NZSPCLRWL RGL RL OCT HK EKBXGB. — By Gordon Miller

3. CRSH ADDY EDDY IDY FUDOS ED ODDY.
EDDY UDDY. ECHO CROS IDY IPAY DQ
CDDY. — By Ed Haddison

4. DYDO YDYUTYSE NWDLYDSU DTIO T
"NOWLAST SAS EWTUT." — By Norton Rhoades



Diagramless

- 19-19, By Harold B. Counts
- ACROSS**
- 1 So, that's it!
 - 2 Joke
 - 3 Body of water
 - 4 Gr. marketplace
 - 5 Eating places
 - 6 Money for capture
 - 7 Hele
 - 8 "Go-well"
 - 9 Jell
 - 10 Used the ice
 - 11 TV's Sawyer
- DOWN**
- 1 Culture medium
 - 2 Gargantuan
 - 3 Undemuth
 - 4 nautically
 - 5 Delfy
 - 6 Hackman or Barry
 - 7 Rhet's last words with ZSD
 - 8 410
 - 9 Keeps
 - 10 Vicinity

- 26 "— Joey"
- 27 Night before a holiday
- 28 John
- 29 Actress Tyne
- 30 Free
- 31 Plant with arrow-shaped leaves
- 32 Anselmo
- 33 Pasture
- 34 Urban area
- 35 Smart

- 41 Giltier
- 42 Inhabitants: ault.
- 43 Throw down the gauntlet
- 44 —China
- 45 Drives
- 46 Government official
- 47 Police car
- 48 Samuel's mentor
- 49 Continent: abbr.
- 50 Pay the tab

Three's company too

By E. Yaghi

IT was the night before the largest dinner ever, projected to be a most extravagant affair where prestigious kings, presidents and prime ministers would gather to discuss the preservation of children. At a small private tea party, three important world figures sat around an elegant display of best silver to lay down the foundations for their definition of a child.

"I say there Georgie, could you please pass the brandy? I must have my tea warmed up a bit," said Maggie. George passed her the bottle of brandy. "Thank you my dear, now where were we? Ob yes, I remember, the definition of a child. Yes, yes of course. Well, the first requirement should be that the child comes from a Western country, preferably Britain, followed by the U.S."

"But my dear Maggie, that's gross! Americans first. After all, we invented the concept of kindness to children. And what about Gabbie here? What will he think? We must expand the definition of a child to include Kuwaiti children. Forgive us Your Highness!" George said as he adjusted his glasses that always seemed to slip off his flat nose. "I really should ask Barbara also if she thinks any of Millie's offspring be included in this definition, but she's out sponsoring her own charity thing right now. Would you like some more 'hot' punch Your Majesty?"

His Majesty was feeling a bit warm. He loosened the top button of his "thobe" and adjusted his "hattah." These interior heads of state could be so crude, but then he needed them right now so he'd better watch his speech. He found his tongue a bit thick as he said, "my good friends, it is so kind of you to include Kuwaitis in your definition of a child, but let me remind you that our main concern is only with the children of my family. If I thought all Kuwaiti young were real children, then I would have taken them with me when I fled the country. As for more punch, perhaps I've had enough."

He could feel his anger rising but he sank down in his chair with such a warm comfortable feeling that he almost forgot what the conversation was about.

"So correct, Excellency. We definitely do want to exclude Iraqi children from the picture altogether. We're trying our best to starve them to death so their parents will overthrow the government," George said with a deep sigh. This Gulf crisis was too much. It had ruined his yachting and spoiled his golf. Being a president wasn't all Ron had promised it to be.

"I say there, old boy, don't you think Jordanian, Palestinian and Yemeni children should also be excluded from this definition," Maggie said while her two little bunny teeth gnawed on a biscuit.

"Well yes I do indeed Maggie. Very sharp of you. After all they are TCNs (third country nationals) and don't really deserve to be called children either and as far as I can see in the near future, they certainly can't be called children unless their respective governments shape up."

"You know dear boy, you're so right. You seem to have a fine sense of fair play. I always admired that about you when you used to carry Ron's briefcase around for him when you were playing the role of V.P."

"Why, thank you Maggie!" Maggie was touched by George's sentiment. He always seemed to have the same compassionate feelings as she did. She patted her mouth with a silk napkin, toyed with her teacup and said, "now let's get back to our definition. I say that perhaps for appearance's sake, we must include a few black South African children in our definition as well as a sprinkle of children from Third World countries that do

what we tell them to. You know, some more TCNs. This year we'll have a grand campaign dedicated to saving lives of countless world children. Oh, by the way, I think you should strike at Iraq soon. I don't like how that 'tyrant' is acting."

Was the room getting warmer or was she just feeling rather tired from her exhaustive flight?

"Good point, Maggie. Hey, what do you think, Gabbie? Gabbie? Say, Maggie, I guess that punch was just too much for him. Look, he's fallen asleep!"

"Oh, Georgie, you mean he's plastered! You can be so crude. And he's snoring too. He's got such bad table manners, but with \$60 billion he can be forgiven for just about anything. I told him that when this mess is over and cleaned up, I want a set of emeralds to match the dress he gave me at the beginning of the crisis and Lizzy wants another Arabian horse."

"Oh, yeh? Well Barbara has plans too. So far she just got a mink coat out of the whole deal and she's not too pleased. She's got this reputation to keep up about being the best dressed woman, so Gabbie here had better fork over some more gifts. Now, where were we? Oh, yes, we were talking about a better future for almost every child," George said as his bony fingers pushed his glasses back on his nose. "You know Maggie, I've got my scriptwriter working on a fantastic speech for the dinner. I heard it's going to be a splendid affair. Who writes your speeches?"

"The same one who writes yours, silly boy. Now let's get down to business. We have to work out some kind of agenda to guarantee the survival and development of the children of the world with the omissions already mentioned. Those Palestinians are getting much too pushy insisting that the Jews hand over to them part of their former country. What's this intifada business anyway? It's very upsetting. All this nonsense about freedom, democracy and self-determination. Whatever is the world coming to? And the nerve of that horrid man Saddam comparing Israeli recovery of their "promised land" of one million years ago to the Iraqi annexation of Kuwait. What has one got to do with the other?"

George looked at Maggie. Damn smart woman. But say, he noticed her wig was slipping. It was a wig, wasn't it? Or were his glasses slipping again? Oh, well, it was getting late and he was tired. He still had to go home and play with Millie's brood and rehearse that speech for tomorrow. Perhaps he should practice that sincere look too.

"George, I'm getting tired. I've had a hard day. Must be jet lag. Let's call it a night. Got to get home and practise my speech. My Lord, I haven't even read it yet! It's going to be a grand convention about children's rights. I just adore children! You'd better wake up Gabbie over there, Maggie said, her face showing the strain of the day and her hair sagging just a bit under the weight of hair spray and mental fatigue.

George shook Gabbie's sunken shoulder and said: "Tomorrow I'm going to announce that all children are equal with certain exceptions of course and I'll read my declaration about how to reduce child mortality. Meanwhile, I'm going to fight Iraq with violence if those economic sanctions concerning the starvation of all Iraqi men, women and children doesn't work. And then, at tomorrow's dinner, I'm going to tell them all, read my lips. We must have a better future for every child. Well, just about every child that is."

With a gratifying look of admiration, Maggie clapped her hands and said, "Absolutely stunning, George! Hooray for the American way! I'll drink to that."

And she did.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, Oct. 18

1867 — United States takes formal possession of Alaska from Russia.

1944 — Soviet troops invade Czechoslovakia in World War II.

1962 — United States urges U.N. General Assembly to condemn South Africa's racial policy of segregation.

1974 — Soviet Union and Egypt agree to support establishment of a Palestinian state.

1987 — Indian troops fight their way into Jaffna, stronghold of Tamil rebels in Sri Lanka, and engage in house-to-house combat.

1988 — South Korea's President Roh Tae-Woo, at United Nations, extends olive branch to North Korea and calls for early summit meeting at Pyongyang.

1989 — Egon Krenz replaces Erich Honecker as leader of the East German Communist Party.

Friday, Oct. 19

1768 — Turkey declares war on Russia to defend Polish liberties.

1781 — British troops under Cornwallis capitulate at Yorktown, Virginia, as American revolutionary war nears end.

1812 — Napoleon Bonaparte begins retreat from Moscow.

1912 — Bulgarians begin siege of Turkish city of Adrianople in Balkan war.

1915 — Japan signs Treaty of London.

1921 — Revolution in Lisbon.

1925 — Italy completes occupation of Italian Somaliland.

1935 — League of Nations imposes sanctions against Italy.

1944 — U.S. troops land in Philippines in World War II.

1957 — West Germany severs relations with Yugoslavia.

1960 — United States places embargo on shipments to Cuba.

1962 — Fighting erupts between Indian and Chinese troops on two fronts on the disputed Himalayan border between India and China.

1973 — Libya, angered by United States' Middle East policy, orders halt of all oil shipments to United States and almost doubles prices.

1976 — Triple veto in U.N. Security Council by Britain, France and United States blocks resolution that would have embargoed arms shipments to South Africa.

1977 — South Africa bans black protest groups, closes leading black newspaper in country, and arrests the editor and other blacks in raids.

1987 — Two trains collide head on south Jakarta, Indonesia, killing 102 people and injuring about 300.

1988 — Rocket fired by Afghan guerrillas kills 9 people and injures 17 near Kabul airport.

1989 — Polish government announces as many as 4.5 million Poles will receive stamps for reduced prices on food in East Bloc's first such programme.

Sunday, Oct. 21

1652 — France's King Louis XIV returns to Paris as Fronde uprising is crushed.

1805 — England's Lord Nelson defeats Franco-Spanish fleet at Trafalgar and is mortally wounded.

Monday, Oct. 22

1952 — Iran breaks diplomatic relations with Britain over oil dispute.

1962 — President John F. Kennedy orders U.S. air and naval forces to quarantine Cuba after concluding that Soviet missile bases are being built on that island.

1969 — Lebanon's Premier Rashid Karami resigns amid mounting pressure against his government's attempt to suppress guerrilla movement.

1987 — Iranian missile crashes into Kuwait's offshore supertanker terminal, setting facility ablaze.

1988 — Iraq announces it will release unilaterally 25 Iranian prisoners of war in accordance with United Nations ceasefire resolution.

Tuesday, Oct. 23

1917 — U.S. troops see first action in World War I near Lunenburg, France.

1942 — British Eighth Army attacks Axis forces to begin battle of El Alamein in Egypt during World War II.

1968 — Egyptian and Israeli jet planes tangle over Suez Canal in first such reported action since 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

1973 — Israeli military command announces that Israel and Egypt have agreed to new ceasefire in Middle East war.

1983 — Gunmen blow up U.S. Marine headquarters building at Beirut, Lebanon, airport, and nearby French headquarters with bomb-laden trucks, killing 241 marines and 58 Frenchmen.

1989 — Honduran jet with 146 people aboard breaks apart in flight and crashes, killing at least 120 people.

By The Associated Press

Van Gogh — from Wheat Fields With A Lark to Crows Over A Wheat Field

By Jean-Marc Dupuch

PARIS — A hundred years ago, Van Gogh was buried in France, in the cemetery at Auvers, a small town on the banks of the Oise, a few dozen kilometres outside Paris.

His grave is simple: a white,

almost bare stone, standing on the ground, with, on it, engraved in black letters: "Ici repose Vincent Van Gogh." It is the double of a similar stone: "Ici repose Théodore Van Gogh." A thick carpet of ivy covers the ground, like a single slab for the two brothers.

The story has become legend, with the pistol-shot in the chest and lingering death, with Vincent smoking his pipe, haggard, with a bullet near his heart and nightfall closing his eyes for ever. On that July 29, 1890, he was 37 years old.

On the recommendation of

Camille Pissarro, who was practically his neighbour, he settled in Auvers-sur-Oise, in the Ile-de-France countryside, (where the Impressionists and Cézanne set up their easels), in May 1890. Dr. Gachet knew them all and admired them. He was supposed to keep an eye on Vincent's health as he had just come out of a mental home in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence.

Before killing himself, Van Gogh had painted *Crows Over a Wheat Field*. Three brown cart-tracks, bordered with green grass, mark the field with the shadow of a cross. What one sees rolling beneath the top edge of the canvas are not clouds, not in that sooty colour. It is the "black sun of melancholy" darkening the sky.

And, beneath the crows, flying like rays of that star, shines the golden wheat, the real sun, true light, fruit of the labour of the peasant who works the earth like a painter works his colour. It is the culmination of the sower's gesture, painted in Arles, who casts the seed with the disk of the sun behind him.

Van Gogh is that sower. Everything was refused him, not only fame, money of

course, and recognition, but also love and friendship were refused the man who dreamed of a family and a studio where he could work in fraternity with other painters. Vincent was kept alive by his brother Theo's generosity and tender concern, but he lived the loneliness of a man consumed by the passion of his art. Back in the north, he showed that light does not come from the sun but from creation, and then he died.

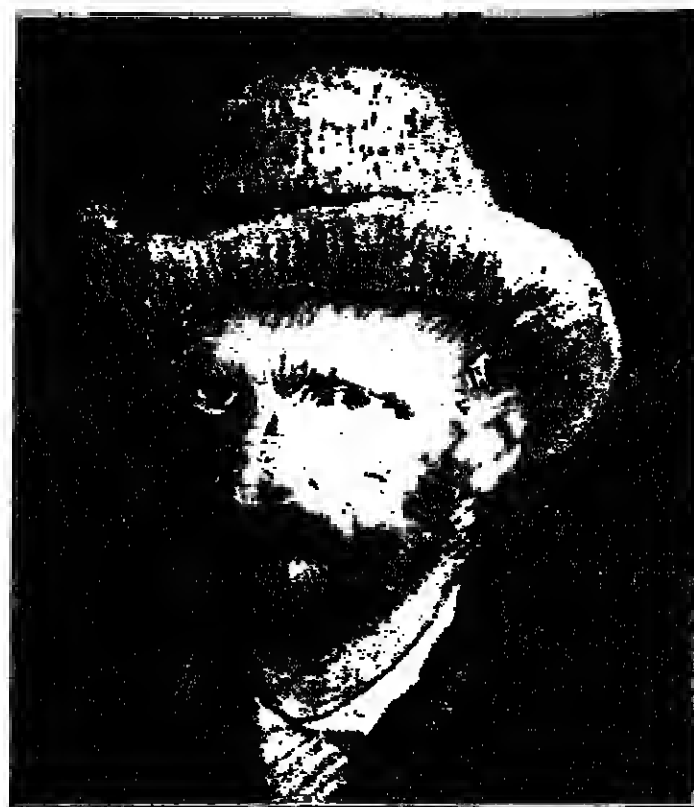
"If I were able to start again, with the experience I have of it now, I would not go to see the South of France," he wrote to Theo from the mental asylum in Saint-Rémy where he was treated from May 89 to May 90. It was the year of *Starry Night*, *Irises*, *Flaming Cypresses* and the swell of the crops in the *Wheat Field With a Reaper* of which he wrote: "In that reaper, I saw the image of death, in the sense that mankind would be the wheat being cut... but there is nothing sad about that death. It happens in full light with a sun flooding everything with a fine golden light."

He so much wanted the sun, "the eternal strong sun" that he left Paris to find it, in

Arles, whose charms Toulouse — Lautrec had praised to him. In fact, when he got off the train in 1888, it was still winter and the South of France was covered in snow. He remembered Japanese landscapes. With spring, an intoxication of light sprang from the blossoming fruit-trees. And the crude sun burst out in the summer wheat fields. "yellow, old-gold landscapes, made very very quickly and in a hurry like the reaper, silent beneath the blazing sun, concentrating to get through his work."

In Arles, Van Gogh lived in the Maison Jaune (yellow house) where he impatiently waited for Gauguin to arrive. With him, he dreamt of founding a studio where artists could work in fraternity. But it was a failure. In a vehement dispute, Vincent threw his glass of absinth in his friend's face. Gauguin said he was leaving. Van Gogh wanted to throw himself on Gauguin with a razor in his hand. Then he went home and cut off his ear lobe which he gave to Gaby, a prostitute he frequented.

Van Gogh had set off for the South towards "a different light." He had fled Paris,



Self Portrait by Vincent Van Gogh

which had ended up disgusting him although he had arrived there, in 1886, already seeking light, twelve years after the first Impressionist exhibition. He had lived in Montmartre, but he frequently left town with a canvas to scour the surrounding countryside.

From one of these expeditions, he brought back the *Wheat Field with a Lark*. In a fresh, open, luminous, grey sky, a lark rises above the field of green wheat, just the ripening, bent by the wind, and scattered here and there



Crows Over A Wheat Field painted in 1890

Hollywood tries to save old films for new audiences

By Leslie Adler

Reuter

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood is turning to dust. Half of the 21,000 films produced by the film capital between the turn of the century and 1951 have disappeared — many the victims of decay, some simply lost.

But thanks to a growing realisation that old films can still earn money, as well as a concern to preserve Hollywood's heritage, the tide of decay is turning.

Video-cassettes have pumped new life into old films and prodded studios to make sure they don't unwittingly lose a rich source of potential revenue.

"There are only so many theatres that are willing to play a film from 1929 over and over again. There are only so many times that a television syndicator will buy that sort of film. So the one area of growth (for old films) is video-cassettes," said a spokesman for Columbia Pictures.

The U.S. video-cassette industry is expected to generate revenues of \$7.71 billion this year, according to Paul Kagan Associates, a research firm in Carmel, California.

"The media industry has discovered that what it has in its libraries is not dead storage but... corporate assets," said Robert Rosen, director of the Film and Television Archives at the University of California at Los Angeles.

In many cases, when (the studios) turned back to their vaults to make video masters, they discovered the films were gone or in very bad condition. So, while preservation used to be a concern out there in some idle office, it is now a front-office concern," said Rosen.

All pre-1950 films are subject to natural decay because of the nitrate-based process used to make them. Over time nitrate film becomes sticky, the image fades, and eventually the celluloid coagulates and then turns into a brown powder.

Preservation techniques involve copying nitrate film on to acetate safety stock after restoring any sections already in decay.

Film made after 1950, although more stable than nitrate film, are also subject to

deterioration and colour fading.

Restoration of one foot of black-and-white film costs more than one dollar, said Rosen. The laboratory costs alone for restoring a complete black-and-white movie run to about \$20,000. The price of restoring a colour film is triple that.

Studios are building improved storage facilities.

Paramount Pictures recently completed an archival centre on its Hollywood Studio lot, including long- and medium-term storage vaults that maintain precise temperature and humidity levels.

"If you store them (films) properly, they last 40 to 50 years," said Bob Sheehan, a senior vice president for Paramount.

Paramount, which sold all its pre-1948 films to Universal Pictures to raise cash, is safeguarding its remaining library by keeping duplicates of all its films in underground vaults in a former limestone mine in Pennsylvania.

The knowledge that future developments could provide further revenue from old films is also spurring Hollywood's preservation efforts.

"The reason we do preservation... is because we never know what kind of technology is going to come in the future" that will provide a use for the film, Sheehan said.

"You've got to protect your film as long as you can, so you can re-create that image in any format you need," Sheehan added. "Who knows what's out there in the year 2000?"

Many studios have discovered that old films can also find new life at the box office.

Columbia last year re-released *Lawrence of Arabia*, which pulled in another \$6 million at the box office. Extensive restoration of the 1962 film prior to the re-release, which included replacing portions of the film that had been cut over the years, cost Columbia one-tenth of that.

Paramount last spring re-released *Funny Face*, a 1957 film starring Audrey Hepburn and Fred Astaire, and saw a scheduled one-week screening in Los Angeles run three weeks.

Jackie Collins: Stories, not sex, sell books

By Ronald Clarke

Reuter

LOS ANGELES — Jackie Collins says sex has little to do with it.

"My books are not just sexy," she said. "They have strong characters and strong stories. Sex alone doesn't sell, believe me."

"My books are very moral. The good people come out on top and the bad people get what they deserve."

"What I write about is really a very mild version of the bad side of Hollywood. It would be impossible for me to write the complete truth."

Collins has been working 14 hours a day overseeing the publication of *Lady Boss*, her 13th book in America, and a \$15 million television mini-series *Lucky Chances*, based on two of her books, which was shown on NBC last week.

Collins, who wrote the script for *Lucky Chances*, is also executive producer of the series, a saga of the rise of her fictional Santangelo family in Hollywood. She has also started work on book number 14, to be called *Hollywood Kids*.

No longer known as "Joan's sister," Collins, who commands a \$3 million advance

on a book, earns more than her actress sister.

"I write about the rise to power," Collins said. "It's a trip — the American dream."

"All my books have been on the best seller lists, but this is not work to me. I love it," she told Reuters.

"Collins picks up much of the material for her books from Hollywood parties and from restaurant lunches with Hollywood wives."

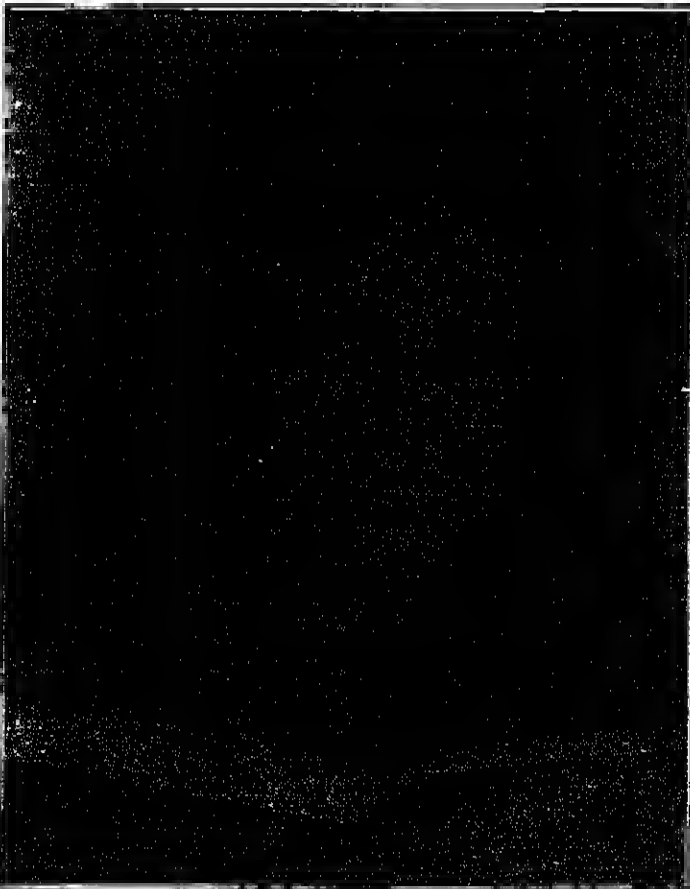
The anecdotes flow — such as the wife who gave a 20th anniversary wedding party and invited all her husband's mistresses. Or the producer who remembers his mother saying to his father "don't hit him in the mouth. It will cost \$600 to get his teeth fixed."

The stories turn up in various forms in her books. Hollywood wives send their maids out to buy first editions to see if they can recognise themselves.

"People in Hollywood talk to me because they know I know the rules," she said. "And they also know I'm very much into marriage. I'm not a threat. I have had the same husband for 21 years."

"I don't live scandal, I only write it," said Collins.

"My new book dwells on the offspring of famous film



Jackie Collins

families such as the Fondas and the Croshys," said Collins, whose previous novels include *Hollywood Wives* and *Hollywood Husbands*.

"I am not writing about any particular family in Hollywood. This is about what happens when the kids become big kids."

Artist plans to fill valleys with giant umbrellas

By Robert Woodward

Reuter

SYDNEY — Christo, the Bulgarian-born artist who wrapped up the Pont Neuf Bridge in Paris, now plans to plant thousands of huge blue and yellow umbrellas in valleys on opposite sides of the Pacific.

In his most ambitious project yet, Christo plans to illuminate the links between Japanese and Western culture by planting 1,760 six metre tall yellow umbrellas in a valley north of Los Angeles and 1,340 blue umbrellas in one north of Tokyo.

The umbrellas will be opened on the same day late next year in what the artist calls a display of "poetical colonisation reflecting the spatial differences and similarities between the two countries."

The artist will no doubt attract the derision which

accompanied the Pont Neuf wrapping in 1985, the surrounding of islands in Biscayne Bay, Miami, with red fabric in 1983 and the cloaking of the cliffs of Sydney Harbour's Little Bay in 1969.

"This has nothing to do with art," the critics said. Christo is resigned to being misunderstood, but points to the crowds which attended his public lecture in Sydney last month as evidence that his work strikes a strong chord in many.

"My work irritates people; they cannot conceive that poetry can be so monumental, so big and yet so free," he said outside a Christo retrospective at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, which includes photographs, photo-montages and a car wrapped in canvas.

"All my projects are about boundaries, division, separation. They all have a very strong nomadic character which is not part of 20th century culture."

He was born Christo Javacheff in Bulgaria on June 13, 1935, the same day as his future wife and business manager Jeanne-Claude. They met in Paris in 1958, a year after Christo had slipped through the iron curtain.

In 1962, the year after the Berlin Wall was built, he barricaded a small street on the left bank in Paris with a neat pile of oil drums, calling the work the Iron Curtain.

He then left for New York, a city which ignited his desire to wrap. "I asked for permission to wrap up two buildings in Manhattan but they thought I was a lunatic," he said.

"I nearly succeeded in getting permission to wrap the Museum of Modern Art but a museum in Bern, Switzerland, was the first to be wrapped. Perhaps the Swiss have more of a sense of fantasy," said Christo, now an American citizen.

His career has seen as many

misses as hits. For 18 years he has wanted to wrap up the Reichstag building in Berlin but the political will was not there. Now that the Berlin Wall has fallen Christo fears he will never achieve his ambition.

"Now the Reichstag has the most incredible meanings and power for Germany and the whole world, so much that I fear that I won't be allowed to do it."

Christo traces his urge to wrap back to French sculptor Auguste Rodin's draped statue of 19th century novelist Honore de Balzac.

"Wrapping is not my invention, people have been fascinated by fabric for hundreds of years," he says.

"The wrapping of the Pont Neuf highlighted its properties and made the landscape look different — the Pont Neuf became the essence of a bridge and the houses became trivial."

"The work is bigger than

my imagination, it's a revelation to me and my collaborators. I don't do a project about the Reichstag, it is the Reichstag."

A quiet, amiable grey-haired man, Christo has had to learn patience in his notorious career, not least while organising his latest work.

"All projects involve long years of involvement and often the right chemistry to get permission is not there. Sometimes I get the permits too late and I don't care, I am no longer inspired."

Christo had been thinking of his U.S.-Japanese project for 15 years before he came up with the umbrella village idea in 1985. It took him months to persuade officials and farmers in the two valleys to go along with his plans.

It will cost around \$20 million. Christo does not accept gifts, sponsorship or commissions. He pays for projects by selling draft plans, models and drawings to collectors.

Seven factories in the U.S., West Germany and Japan are making different parts of the umbrellas which are designed to withstand winds of 110 kph (70 miles per hour) when open.

About 3,000 people will assemble in the valleys to erect the umbrellas. Christo surveyed both the valley near Gorman, 96 kilometres from Los Angeles, and the valley near Mito, 120 kilometres from Tokyo, in 1988 to work out umbrella positions.

"We chose valleys that were not too narrow, not too wide and not too famous," Christo said. "We are building houses without walls to give the feeling of a nomadic presence, a new settlement."

In Japan the umbrellas will be close together because space is short. "But they will be whimsically placed in California to express how much space is available," Christo said.

The potato — No slouch in hungry world

By Mike Feinsilber
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Portraying lazy people as "couch potatoes" is a libel on a vegetable with an important role in feeding a hungry world, say participants in a conference on the future of the potato.

"The potato yields more nutritious food quicker on less land and under harsher climates than any major crop," said Robert E. Rhoades, a potato researcher stationed in the Philippines.

"The idea of a lazy potato is a contradiction in terms," he said.

But Rhoades told the Smithsonian Institution meeting on "feeding the global village" that the potato has been belittled ever since it was carried back to Europe following Christopher Columbus' voyage.

There's an improbable rumour, he said, that "spud" comes from the acronym for the "Society for the Prevention of an Unwholesome Diet," a group that has dedicated to keeping potatoes out of England.

The Scots originally refused to eat potatoes because they weren't mentioned in the Bible, he said, and through the ages the potato has been accused of causing syphilis, rickets, tuberculosis and lust.

In actual fact, the spread of the potato offers a second chance to support a population that is outracing its capacity to feed itself, the conference was told. It is grown in 126 countries, from the Arctic to the tropics, atop mountains and in the desert.

The first chance was the "green revolution," which started in the 1960s and kept

millions alive by developing high-yield strains of rice, corn and wheat, but never fully lived up to its promise.

China, the world's rice bowl, has replaced Poland as the second largest potato producer, behind the Soviet Union. India is in fourth place, the United States fifth.

The potato's foremost champion at the conference was researcher Richard Sawyer, founder and director general of the International Potato Centre in Lima, Peru. He said his interest was sharpened when he subsisted on stolen seed potatoes while a prisoner of war in Nazi Germany.

Changes in the way potatoes are planted promise to make this vegetable, packed with protein and vitamin C, potassium, iron and magnesium, widely available in poor lands where it has been too expensive.

Potatoes are usually grown from a tuber chunk containing buds or "eyes." Research at the potato centre made it possible to grow them from seeds from the plant's flower, Sawyer reported, eliminating the need to import seed material at great expense.

"I can hold in my hand enough true potato seed to plant a hectare (2.471 acres), whereas it takes 4,000 pounds (1,800 kilos) or more of tubers to plant the same area," Sawyer said.

Meantime, he said, scientists have only begun to explore new varieties.

"I am confident we have the ability to develop varieties that would have resistance to pests and diseases and eliminate 90 per cent of the present use of chemicals on production," Sawyer said.

Goodbye to 'runner's high' experts seek 'runner's calm'

By Ira Dreyfuss
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It's amazing how anything that feels so bad can make you feel so good.

After 30 minutes of gasping, sweating and aching, you're enjoying the post-exercise cool-down — and it is really cool. As you catch your breath and walk, you feel as serene as a sunny day. A quiet joy washes over you. Sometimes it even comes over you while you're still running.

What puzzles researchers is why. They believe the altered state is cooked out of the biochemical stew you bring to a simmer by exercising, but they're still working out both the ingredients and the recipe.

Back during the running revolution of the 1970s, the feeling was described as "runner's high."

probably a borrowing from the drug-culture "high," said Murray E. Allen, associate professor in the School of Kinesiology (the study of muscle movement) at Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia.

Allen and other researchers consider the term inaccurate.

The feeling is not solely for runners, of course — the mood change has been reported from many activities. And studies indicate it's really a kind of calm he said.

Researchers looking for the physiological cause have been focusing on Beta-Endorphin, one of a class of hormones that may act as opiates. When exercise increases stress, beta-endorphin production also increases, often sharply.

Endorphins seem to partially control the effects of the hormone epinephrine, the biochemical accelerator in the body's reaction to stress, said Peter A. Farrell, an associate professor of applied physiology at Pennsylvania State University.

"I firmly believe... endorphins are keeping the body from over-responding," he said.

"A calm is one label you could bang on it," said Bradley D. Hatfield, associate professor in the Department of Kinesiology at the University of Maryland, who is analysing the relationship of mood and beta-endorphin levels. Some findings from that project have been reported in the journal *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise*.

The researchers had 12 young men exercise at varying intensities on stationary bikes. They found that beta-endorphin levels increased with intensity, and that

the levels declined more slowly among the higher-intensity exercisers after the workout was over.

But endorphin increases do not translate consistently into mood changes.

Exercisers and non-exercisers reported lower anxiety and stress. This could mean that people felt more comfortable as time passed and they got more used to the conditions of the experiment, Hatfield said.

Depression and hostility scores didn't change, but that could be because these young healthy people didn't have much depression or hostility to begin with, he said.

"It's probably a multi-dimensional thing," Hatfield said. Mood could be affected by everything from the complexities of neurochemistry to the simple feeling of success you get from doing a tough job, he said.

Children fare worst in Nicaraguan health crisis

By Doralisa Pilarde
The Associated Press

MANAGUA — Nicaragua's health system is crumbling under economic chaos, shortages, corruption and epidemics. Those who suffer most are the children.

A measles epidemic has killed hundreds of children this year. Malnutrition ravages small bodies.

Conditions are desperate at La Mascota Children's Hospital, which has 240 beds.

Dr. Adolfo Galan Ruiz, head of the emergency room, asked the mother of a nine-year-old boy: "Do you know how to pray?" She nodded, and he said: "Then start praying."

The youngster had a leg infection and fever that began with an insect bite. Because

he was malnourished, the infection developed into life-threatening gangrene.

"We have done what we can," Galan told the mother, trying to comfort her. "The rest is up to God."

Asked later whether he believed in God, he shrugged and said: "No."

In three days, the boy was dead.

Galan said malnutrition was the direct or indirect cause of more than 40 per cent of the deaths at La Mascota, where 54 children died in September, 67 in August and 118 in July.

La Mascota, which was built eight years ago under Sandinista rule, is among Nicaragua's better hospitals.

Most hospitals came under Sandinista ownership during a decade-long rule and an amhi-

tious effort to make free medical care widely available. A moribund economy has thwarted that dream.

Television ads show the new president, Violeta Chamorro, acknowledging the acute crisis: She tells viewers the government doesn't have funds to improve health care and appeals for private donations.

A special account has been opened at a bank to receive contributions.

"The only thing we have eradicated in Nicaragua is polio," said Dr. Enrique Alvarado, appointed La Mascota's director by the 5-month-old conservative government. "We haven't had any polio in 5 or 6 years."

A growing measles epidemic, however, has killed hundreds of children this

year. The rainy season brings the annual diarrhea epidemic respiratory problems.

Puddles of rainwater breed flies, which contaminate uncovered food. People are forced to drink unsafe water.

Government health campaigns — which instruct people to boil water, cover food and wash their hands — have met with limited success.

Inexpensive packets of rehydrating salts, a lifesaver against diarrhea, have been made available by UNICEF, the United Nations organisation for children.

Struggling with few resources, obsolete and broken-down equipment as well as shortages of medicines, health care workers said they can only try their best to save young lives.

Diet can help prevent cancer, but not treat it

By Paul Rezer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The "killer diet" of rich foods favoured by Americans makes them more susceptible to cancer, and it's too late to change after the disease develops, researchers say.

"The man on the street is eating himself to death with a killer diet of high calories and high fat," Dr. Henry T. Lynch, a researcher at the Creighton University School of Medicine said. "They are more vulnerable to cancer. We know that from epidemiological studies."

But precisely how diet can affect the development of cancer cells is still unknown. Lynch said that despite claims by some unconventional cancer treatment centres there is no conclusive, clear evidence that any specific food or diet provides an absolute protection from cancer.

Lynch, a speaker at a meeting of the American Institute for Cancer Research on the effects of vitamins and minerals on cancer, said all that scientists can say for sure now is that a high-fiber, low-fat diet is a "prudent" precaution against cancer.

This is based on studies of populations in which the occurrence of cancer is lower than in the United States and in countries that have adopted a Western diet, he said.

Laboratory studies using animals fed special diets have shown "very appealing evidence" that some nutrients can protect against the formation of cancer cells, Lynch said.

But this does not mean that people can prevent cancer with a knife and a fork.

"In humans, the data is still preliminary and fragmentary," said Lynch. "When bringing dietary manipulation to a clinical application, we're still in a gray zone."

Once cancer has developed,

Lynch said there has been no reputable research showing that special diets or food supplements can effectively defeat the disease.

People with cancer may spend thousands of dollars on unconventional treatments based on unusual diets, but they are wasting their money, the researcher said.

"There are no anti-cancer dietary supplements," said Lynch, a practicing cancer specialist. "I know patients who get into that garbage and it's pathetic."

Carmia Borek, a professor at the Tufts University School of Medicine, said there have been studies showing that low levels of some nutrients are more common among people with cancer. And she said that laboratory studies on isolated cells and in animals have shown that vitamin E, selenium and traces of some other nutrients can interrupt the development of cancer cells.

But, she said, there still is no evidence relating these findings to humans, or proving that dietary manipulation can either treat or prevent cancer.

"We still have to do work on that," she said. "I don't think we'll have the final evidence for a long time."

One way to get the evidence would be to study families in which there is a genetic predisposition to develop cancer, Lynch said.

"There are thousands of families that have been decimated by cancer," he said. Some family members, said Lynch, have a 50-50 chance of developing the disease.

Using controlled diets in carefully designed studies with these families, he said, could give "final answers" on cancer and diet in about one generation.

"The evidence is very strong that diet is associated with cancer, but it's not clear if dietary manipulation can prevent the disease," he said.

Chinese traditional medicine offered for AIDS cure

By Charlene L. Fu
The Associated Press

PEKING — Chinese traditional medicine-makers have jumped into the quest for an AIDS cure, pushing centuries-old herbal treatments as the answer to the modern-day scourge.

A group of doctors and researchers introduced their latest alternative to Western medicine: red, white, yellow and green pills whose major ingredients include seaweed, Chinese violet, honey suckle and wild chrysanthemum.

Already this month, reports have appeared in at least two national newspapers of success claims for a new combination of herbal extracts from Angelica, Ginseng and Fructus Lycium formulated by the Chinese military.

In April, the official Xinhua News Agency said a Chinese herbal extract was effective in killing the AIDS virus when injected into the vagina or used as a mouthwash.

It also said doctors have achieved "satisfying results" in using a "therapy combining Chinese medicines, acupuncture and moxibustion, fumigation, hath therapy, psychotherapy and massage" on AIDS patients.

None of the medicine-makers offer more than cursory data to back their claims to cure acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). AIDS is caused by the HIV virus, which attacks the body's immune system, leaving it vulnerable to infections. The recent news confer-

ence, for example, was a blatant sales pitch by the Peking Traditional Chinese Medicine and Health Co. Ltd. After two hours, its panel of speakers still had not answered questions about how the medication worked to kill the HIV virus or how it had been tested.

Zhao Zhiling, a company manager, said in his opening speech, "it is verified that (using) Chinese medical treatment in combating AIDS is not only possible but also effective."

At one point, Zhao said all of the more than 200 patients in the U.S. and Africa using his medicine "are basically alive."

After repeated questioning, Zhao and his panel conceded that not only had no controlled studies been conducted, but also that the pills themselves had never actually been taken by AIDS patients. He said they did take care of the ingredients.

They refused to give a full list of the pills' ingredients. Some they could not translate into English and others they said were secret.

Despite the lack of scientific data, some American AIDS sufferers reportedly are experimenting with Chinese herbal medicines.

The China Daily said last week that 18 San Francisco residents who had been exposed to the AIDS virus but displayed no symptom of the disease were taking herbal medicines prescribed by the Chinese Academy of Military Medical Sciences in Beijing.

Firms see pay-off in helping employees avoid stress

By Gert Semler and Stefan Rieff

ABILITY to cope with stress is a quality referred to in every second job advertisement in the Neue Juristische Wochenschrift, a lawyers' magazine. Working conditions in many practices make this a quality that is absolutely essential.

It is a quality that a 36-year-old lawyer from Munich who was recently found unconscious in front of his front door at two in the morning did not have. The diagnosis of the hastily summoned doctor: circulatory collapse. The run-up: much too much to work, constant pressure of time, countless cups of coffee, constant smoking and, more and more often, too much alcohol.

It is a case which shows that stress in the modern world of works can also take its toll of relatively young people. It is not just the "classic" case of the endangered manager who is affected but, as new scientific studies have found, freelance workers and the self-employed who are exposed to health risks. Ursula Härtel of the Medis Institute of the Society for Radiation and Environment Research, near Munich, discovered that in the so-called type A case which, in research into stress is regarded as the most important risk type for heart and circulation illnesses, there are many people between the ages of 25 and 44.

The Munich lawyer was unmistakably a type A case. Decisive for him before his collapse were his excessive desire for recognition and an almost compulsive drive for challenges and competition. He put both himself and other under pressure of time, always looked tense and was easily excitable, but he only

occasionally showed anger. He drove colleagues to greater efforts, urging them often with expressions of impatience and fingers nervously tapping the table.

Assignments had to be rapidly completed, yesterday rather than today. Conscientiousness and punctuality were absolute priorities. He was so self-centered that he was barely aware of the needs and interests of others. His attitudes contained high health risks not only for himself but also for colleagues: he sought and created stress.

Härtel reports that in the private sector with its high proportion of type A cases, more than 55 per cent of white-collar employees between the ages of 35 and 44 showed such behavioural traits. But these days, there is in the private sector a greater realisation of the dangers.

Modern staff politics do not treat employees any more like a machine able to complete its

tasks without maintenance. Notice is taken of individuality, of personal needs, wishes and ambitions. "Optimum furtherance of individual potential," is the motto of many companies. Health care plays an ever more important role in staff relations.

This was a trend evident in America in the 1960s. Some firms, including the chemicals giant, Du Pont, recognised early that although investing in staff health was initially expensive, long term it paid off. Studies into company health programmes such as "Live for Life" of the chemicals and cosmetic maker Johnson & Johnson or the "Stay Well" of the computer firm Control-Data reveal that every dollar invested in health for employees realised up to five dollars in the form of less absenteeism, higher productivity and lower illness costs. (There were found to be other advantages: it led to increased prestige, improved morale

and increased identification by the workforce with the company. This has now been recognised on the management floors of German firms. The importance of preventing and overcoming stress and thus combating heart and circulation illnesses is now much more important. It is not only long-term commercial considerations and increased prestige which prompt firms to act but also the increased demand from employees themselves, as Herbert Bichlmaier, of Munich car manufacturer BMW, observed.

Reinhard Schwarz, of Siemens, reckons that the number of seminars dealing with stress are increasing by at least 20 per cent a year. In the past seven years, almost 600 department heads from the Leverkusen works have taken part in anti-stress projects. This (northern) summer, wives and husbands of employees were invited to take

part for the first time.

What can, in concrete terms, be done to counter stress? The starting point dealt with at relevant seminars and training courses is to isolate the factors which in individual cases cause stress. Some of these factors can be eliminated, reduced or avoided. Considerable relief could be achieved by taking steps such as setting priorities, more sensibly allocating time and reorganising the working day.

Unfortunate attitudes are often hidden behind cases of chronic overwork. People who felt the need to accommodate everyone or who could not bring themselves to say no, create stress for themselves. Such attitudes could be checked out with questions such as: "What is this attitude doing for me? Is it doing me any harm?" and in doing so, to reveal starting points for developing more realistic and less stress-

inducing habits. These could not, however, be expressed as simple formulas. They must be integrated in each individual personality. For mastery over stress long term there are also special relaxation and breathing techniques which serve to increase resistance to, and general ability to cope with, stress. They also help develop certain abilities such as in communication or personal relations areas.

When the load on an individual spills over from the performance-enhancing type of stress into the type of stress likely to harm health and impair performance — and the spillover point varies from individual to individual — a set of measures against the stress-causing factors can be deployed. Short-term relief is created by spontaneous relaxation which, like other techniques is disposed to limit the extent of excitability and prevent the process of stress from building up.

The simmering-down as a result sometimes could express itself for example where a person would use the stairs rather than the lift following a stressful meeting. This was a way of using up the excess energy which had been generated in the stress situation.

Precise observation of the reactions of organisms to stress factors, the short-term concentration, for example directed towards a neutral object in the immediate area or on pleasant memories of a holiday and even on positive talking to oneself ("No reason to panic, you can handle it") are further techniques which can be extremely helpful if the intention is to develop more coolness and security in dealing with strain — Süddeutsche Zeitung.

Friczewski urged that companies set up health plans under which employees could meet weekly or at greater intervals with others in their field of work for a couple of hours during working hours. Participants could learn through reciprocal exchanges of experiences to observe work strain without feelings of resignation, guilt or accusations of guilt — Frankfurter Rundschau.

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Fear, hate at work 'are killers'

By Eckart Spoo

FEAR, mistrust, hate and the drive to bring everything under control and to keep it that way are factors that work like a poison in the body and lead to high levels of cholesterol in the blood and which, as a result, can cause heart attacks.

That is the opinion of a Berlin psychologist, Franz Friczewski. He told a conference in Hanover that such traits were likely to develop where stress was prolonged such as was the case in many firms.

He predicted that organisation which put people under

this sort of pressure so that they reacted by developing chronic illnesses would possibly head for a quick demise just like "real existing socialism" (the term formerly used in East Germany to describe the type of society developed there) he said.

He developed the parallel (with East Germany) by saying that in a business characterised by management fear, the tendency was for everything to be regulated and centralised, suffocating self-organisation by staff.

Management demanded constantly higher performances in ever shorter time spans and allowed too little time to deal with the unex-

pected simply because the experience of the employees was not geared to handling the unexpected.

The ability and readiness of staff to motivate each other became suppressed and, instead, motivation was created purely by pay and punishment. He said that such a system caused constant new forms of fear, mistrust and rivalry; it prevented people supporting each other; on the contrary, it drove individuals "to hold themselves under iron control, that is, to turn themselves into robots because that appeared to be the best and surest way to survive." Because this "drive for

PLO warns of use of arms

(Continued from page 1)

its "unprecedented use of force" and if the Security Council fails to take action, he said. The Palestinians living in the occupied territories were exerting "great pressure" on the PLO to arm them against "the organised terrorism of the Israelis," he added.

The PLO official described the Israeli rejection of the U.N. mission as a "defiance of the international community's will and a real challenge to the ability of the United Nations to carry (out) its decisions and to show... that no state is above international law."

Abu Sharif called on the U.N. secretary general to call an urgent meeting of the Security Council to discuss the Israeli government's refusal to abide by Resolution 672 and said the council was responsible for providing protection to the Palestinians.

He stressed that the purpose of the U.N. mission was not to investigate the "criminal acts of the Israeli soldiers in Jerusalem" but to expose the "deplorable and miserable" situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

"We are sure that blocking the efforts of the Security Council will result in more frustration and push the situation in the Middle East to its explosive end," Abu Sharif warned. "And we will consider any Israeli military personnel who shoot at our people as a legal target," he said.

Abu Sharif said the five permanent members of the Security Council should meet urgently to discuss the convening of an international peace conference to discuss "implementation of Resolution 242, which called on Israel 23 years ago to withdraw from the occupied territories."

Asked whether the PLO was insisting on Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's Aug. 12 initiative which linked the Iraqi-Palestinian problem or was awaiting a resolution of the Gulf crisis first, Abu Sharif said: "As a matter of fact I am calling for an international conference (on the Palestinian problem) before the Gulf crisis is resolved. There are two standards with which Western countries deal with the resolutions of the same body concerning the same area... we are calling for one standard."

He said the linkage between

the two problems exists in principle but that does not mean a certain schedule or timetable would link the two conflicts.

Abu Sharif stressed the PLO's adherence to its own peace initiative of December 1988 which he said was not a tactical move but a strategic goal. "We are committed to the peace initiative and a two-state solution," he affirmed. "But now we are requesting the international community to protect our people until a solution is achieved."

Asked whether the PLO was giving the Security Council a deadline to decide how to protect the Palestinians, Abu Sharif pointed out that the council was scheduled to meet before the end of this month to discuss the report that is supposed to be submitted by the mission by Oct. 24.

In any event, he said, the fact-finding mission was a mere formality. "The whole world knows is aware of the facts," he said. He recalled that a previous report on the occupied territories compiled by Deputy Secretary General Jean-Claude Aime was never submitted to the Security Council.

He dismissed suggestions that arming the Palestinian people would only result in more violence and deaths. "Israel does not need any excuse to escalate the violence," he said.

On the Gulf crisis and the possibility for a political solution to the problem, Abu Sharif said there was a systematic attempt by the United States and other countries to escalate the situation rather than to achieve a negotiated settlement. He said a tentative agreement was reached at the onset of the crisis and it was agreed upon by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia as well as President Saddam Hussein. But the initiative was "killed" by the Aug. 4 meeting in Cairo of Arab foreign ministers who condemned the Iraqi invasion and provided an Arab cover for American-led Western forces to be deployed in Saudi Arabia, according to Abu Sharif.

"President Bush is fully responsible for any outbreak of war and its terrible consequences," Abu Sharif declared. "Despite what happened in Cairo, the opportunity for a peaceful solution is still a big opportunity."

Baker calls for patience

(Continued from page 1)

away from moves to demand "war reparations" from Iraq or set up a war crimes tribunal to punish Saddam Hussein and instead proposed a new idea to call for emergency supplies for besieged diplomats in Kuwait.

Baker told Tuesday's news conference he preferred at this stage to pass a United Nations resolution to resupply foreign embassies still operating in Kuwait with food and water rather than a British proposal to slap reparations on Baghdad.

"We'd like to see that resolution passed promptly and that resolution is under discussion at the United Nations as we speak here today," Baker said.

Baker's statement came as a surprise to Western diplomats there who were drawing up a resolution including a demand for

Iraqi compensation for individuals who had suffered because of the invasion.

U.S. officials said Washington had shied away from the idea, first proposed by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, because it was nervous some countries might seek to write in similar provisions relating to the Israeli-occupied territories.

Baker said such measures could come later. "At some point... we think it would be appropriate to consider resolutions that spoke to the question of reparations from Iraq for what they have done to Kuwait and that spoke to the question generally of war crimes responsibility," he said.

President George Bush Monday likened Iraqis to the Nazis and recalled that Nazi leaders had been brought to trial at the Nuremberg tribunal.

Primakov retains optimism

(Continued from page 1)

It has left London-based political analysts wondering whether Baghdad might eventually be persuaded to settle for only a chunk of the emirate.

A copy of the map was seen by Reuters and the analysts said it might be a clue to Iraq's bargaining position in any Gulf negotiations.

A German deputy said Tuesday Iraq would be willing to accept a diplomatic way out of the Gulf crisis if the country was allowed to save its face and if the Palestinian problem was not left out.

Dieter Schinzel, a member of the opposition Social Democratic Party who is a deputy in the European Parliament, spoke to reporters in Bonn after returning from Iraq and talks with Iraqi officials.

He had met with Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz. Schinzel said Iraqi officials had indicated that Iraq was willing to look for a diplomatic way out of the crisis if it was allowed to "keep its honour" and if the Palestinian issue was part of the diplomatic effort.

He said Iraq would be willing to accept mediation by such European personalities as Pres-

ident Mitterrand, German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher or former German Chancellor Willy Brandt.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has said that Iraq was refusing to indicate any Kuwait withdrawal plan, since to discuss it would undermine the Baghdad's army morale.

French politician Claude Cheysson, the head of a European Parliament delegation which saw Arafat for four hours on Tuesday night, told Reuters: "Arafat told me that even if (Iraq) has decided to evacuate Kuwait, (it) is not going to say it in advance because that would demotivate (its) troops and complicate (its) discussions with the other Arab states."

Cheysson, a former French foreign minister, said, "Arafat told me he was more optimistic than he was some weeks ago... he was very reserved on a softening of Saddam Hussein's position but he gave an interesting justification and explanations."

Arafat recalled that during negotiations on withdrawing Palestinian guerrillas from Beirut in 1982 he had taken the same attitude as Saddam might take if he was thinking of withdrawal.

Arafat said Sunday that Iraq's position on Kuwait had shifted but gave no details.

Palestinians boycott Hurd

(Continued from page 1)

saying, but the compromise he reached is that one person is going with the secretary about all these things."

The 27 Palestinians Hurd had been scheduled to meet on Wednesday included Khatib, an economics professor; Sari Nusseibeh, a leading professor from Jerusalem; Lawyer Jamil Tarif, and Mustafa Barghouti, head of medical relief in the occupied West Bank.

Palestinian academic Saeb Erekat told a hastily convened news conference that Hurd "said to the Israelis yesterday that Britain and Israel share an objective of having a peaceful Middle East. For God's sake, this government of Israel was formed in order to say 'no' to the peace process."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing government was formed in June after the previous one collapsed over his refusal to enter peace talks with Palestinians.

Israeli media reports that Hurd had said he opposed creation of a Palestinian state inflamed an Arab population already seething over the Harun Al Sharif massacre.

"Unfortunately, Mr Hurd did not clarify these points that created anger in the Palestinian streets," said Rad-

wan Abu Ayyash, one of the most prominent Palestinian activists. "We cannot go against the will of our people."

The Palestinians held their news conference as Hurd was supposed to be meeting them at a hotel.

Hurd, apparently unaware of the Palestinian storm brewing in Jerusalem, made his first comments on the Israeli media reports in an impromptu exchange with a student in a rehabilitation centre in the West Bank.

"We believe the Palestinians should have the right to determine their own future," Hurd said at the centre in the town of Beit Jala that treats many casualties of the 34-month-old uprising.

"We don't say there cannot be a state. We don't say there should be a state. It's for the Palestinians to decide their own future," he said.

However, in another statement likely to anger Arabs and please Israelis, he said the PLO's support for Iraq had changed his opinion of the organisation.

"The Palestine Liberation Organisation has to be involved in the process but the PLO has made a big mistake by finding excuses for Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. It does alter one's opinion," Hurd said during exchanges with the student.

Gorbachev meets Cheney

(Continued from page 1)

Americans want to talk about the Gulf crisis as well.

"It is really amazing that we have made such a norm of such visits by our defence ministers, our chiefs of staffs, and military contacts. This has really become something special in our relationship," Gorbachev said to

Cheney as the meeting began. Cheney later met Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and thanked him for Soviet cooperation at the United Nations on the Gulf issue.

Moscow Radio said Gorbachev and Cheney discussed the Gulf situation, but it gave no details.

Beirut 'green line' torn down

(Continued from page 1)

Justice Minister Edmond Rizk said France's decision to grant Aoun asylum was "not justified."

"Lebanon is prepared to give Aoun a fair trial and to guarantee his physical safety. France's humanitarian motives to grant him asylum are not justified," Rizk said in a statement broadcast by the communist-run Voice of the People radio.

man, who cannot be named in line with regulations, said government and Syrian troops who carried out the assault on Aoun were redeploying in his enclave.

"The combat is over. The forces that carried out the attack were ordered to start gathering at key road intersections and strategic locations," the police spokesman said.

In Algeria:

Rise of fundamentalists worries women's movement

By Patrick McDowell
The Associated Press

ALGIERS, Algeria — Khalida Massaoudi heads the largest women's rights organisation in this Muslim nation of 26 million people: it has 400 members.

Ms. Massaoudi, 32, worries "that the shift to democracy will do nothing to end what she calls the repression of Algerian women. Her fears deepen with each political advance by the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front, known as the FIS.

"The biggest danger for us is if the FIS take power," said the soft-spoken teacher of high school mathematics. "It will prolong the totalitarianism Algeria has already known too long."

She said the Marxist revolutionaries who ruled Algeria unchallenged for 28 years had given the fundamentalists a ready-made framework for oppressing women under Islamic law.

The National Liberation Front, or FLN, imposed one-party rule on Algeria after winning independence from France in 1962. Many FLN leaders were devout Muslims despite their Marxist philosophy, and wrote into the constitution that Algeria would be an Islamic nation.

Ms. Massaoudi said each member of her independent Association for the Triumph of Women's

Rights is a heroine in a society "that has never made a gift to women."

"For the crushing majority of women in this country, the only world is the family," she said.

Ms. Massaoudi stands out in her working-class neighbourhood: she holds a job, lives alone, leaves her red hair uncovered and asks no man's permission to go out. Algeria's work force of 8 million includes only 380,000 women.

Most of her female neighbours cloak themselves in long robes and scarves before leaving their houses, and nearly always are accompanied by another woman or a male relative.

Women served in the National Liberation Front during its eight-year guerrilla war against France but Islamic tradition coexisted uneasily with Western concepts of women's rights during the first generation of independence.

Women in Algiers and Oran wore skirts and trousers, but most rural women concealed themselves behind veils.

Divided as it was between devout Muslims from rural areas and more secular leaders from the cities, the FLN sidestepped the issue of women's rights.

Then, in 1984, the National Assembly passed the family law in response to pressure from Islamic fundamentalists. It restricted

polygamy, gave women a say in educating their sons after age 10 and allowed women to initiate divorce proceedings.

But in practice, according to Ms. Massaoudi, the law codified second-class status for women.

One of its victims was a woman who would identify herself only as Keltoum.

Her husband declared them divorced in January and threw Keltoum, 31, and their five children out of the house.

He didn't need a court ruling. Under Islamic tradition guaranteed by the family law, Keltoum's husband divorced her simply by telling her the marriage was over.

Had Keltoum sought a divorce, she would have had to prove in court that he had committed adultery or had not wanted children.

"I can't imagine saying such things before a judge," she said. "No Algerian woman could."

An electoral code passed in 1986 allows husbands to cast their wives' votes, which contributed to the sweeping municipal and regional election victory by fundamentalists in June.

"That law was the final stab in the back by the FLN," Ms. Massaoudi said. "The FLN dug the grave for women and put them in it."

The FLN has a women's wing, as do other parties. But men

retain control.

President Chadli Bendjedid has proposed reforming the election law, but the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front accuses him of bending the rules to help the FLN.

With solid support among Algeria's swollen ranks of unemployed young men, the fundamentalists have the strongest party as the spring parliamentary elections approach.

Most followers of the fundamentalists favour separate education for males and females. "The woman is sacred," said Djalil Boualem, 55. "We want them to learn, to do medicine, as the (Islamic) law says. But mixing this we are against. It is forbidden for Muslim people."

An article in the Salvation Front's newspaper said women should work "when necessity arises."

"The woman who goes to work and preserves her honour, modesty and purity, who honourably fulfills her task, then comes home as clean as she left... should not, in our humble opinion, be considered as having disobeyed the commandments of God," it said.

One test of modesty is whether a woman wears the hijab, a scarf covering the head and neck. Increasing numbers of women, even in Algiers, are doing so.

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JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Yeltsin says Gorbachev leading Soviet Union towards chaos

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Boris Yeltsin, president of the powerful Russian Federation, accused Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev of leading the Soviet Union towards chaos with his economic plans.

Yeltsin vented his anger Tuesday over Gorbachev's blueprint to rescue the crisis-ridden economy and guide the Soviet Union to a market system within two years.

"Our reserves of patience are exhausted... the new programme is a catastrophe waiting to occur in the first few months of its implementation," Yeltsin said in a forceful speech to the Russian parliament.

Yeltsin, slamming the Gorbachev plan as too cautious, held out the threat of a virtual economic breakaway by the country's biggest republic if the Kremlin leader went ahead with his plan.

But he cushioned his warnings with offers of cooperation.

"In basic questions the president and I move in the same direction, but we move at a different pace and by different methods... for this reason Gorbachev and I are both open to dialogue," Yeltsin said.

Gorbachev's document was presented as general guidelines, leaving important details to be settled later.

It lacks the clear timetable of a radical 500-day plan backed by Russia, gives no clear figures for cutting money supply and is less specific about the rate and scale of privatisation.

Yeltsin said if Gorbachev stood by his plan, to be debated by the Soviet parliament this week, Russia could ignore it and push on with its own programme regardless.

He said the Kremlin was preventing the vast majority of industrial plants in his republic switching to Russian control. Oil and major enterprises were firmly in the control of the "centre."

Iraq launches big farm drive

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has launched an all-out drive to grow more food and beat a United Nations economic blockade designed to force its troops from Kuwait.

As the winter sowing season approaches, senior government officials say the aim is to achieve minimum self-sufficiency at least in grain, vital to an Iraqi diet that depends heavily on bread — now in short supply.

Deputy Prime Minister Saddam Hammadi has said the drive is part of a plan to gear the economy to "self-defence," effectively switching to a war footing to meet basic civilian needs and supply Iraq's one-million-strong army.

"All development efforts at this stage are adapted and reorganised on this basis," he told the government newspaper Al Jumhuriya at the weekend.

Among new measures, the ruling Revolutionary Command Council has taken the unprecedented step of exempting young farmers from military service if they can prove they work minimum areas producing grains, fruit and vegetables.

Iraq has also offered 100 million dinars (\$320 million) at official exchange rates in low-interest loans to farmers to buy seed and equipment, raised the price it pays for their crops and leased neglected government land at cheap rents.

The U.N. Security Council imposed a trade and oil blockade on Iraq, four days after President Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, in a bid to compel him to withdraw.

The embargo shut off the oil exports on which Iraq depended for revenue to import most of its industrial spare parts and military equipment and more than 80 per cent of its food.

But more than ten weeks into the siege, some of the Arab states allied with Washington against Saddam say they doubt it is working.

And evidence in Baghdad suggests the international blockade is causing inconvenience rather than real hardship.

Long queues form daily at bakeries but rationed supplies of bread, rice, cooking oil, sugar, tea and several other basic commodities are available at heavily-

subsidised prices.

Meat is also relatively cheap and easily available, apparently because breeding stock is being slaughtered.

Other foods are plentiful outside the rationing system although at sky-high prices in relation to the average monthly wage of about 150 dinars (\$480).

The price of potatoes has soared more than 800 per cent since before the crisis to three dinars (\$9.6) a kilogramme, while three litres of corn oil in a can from Kuwait cost 15 dinars (\$45) at one Baghdad store on Wednesday.

Non-essential foods are beyond many pockets. Domestically brewed beer is also in short supply but some foreign economists say that is because the barley is being used with wheat to make bread.

Many restaurants in Baghdad have been ordered to stop serving meals in another example of how food supplies are being conserved to sit out the blockade.

The enforced changes in consumption and high prices have led to private complaints by some

Iraqis but nothing so far to suggest an outburst of discontent that might undermine Saddam's firm hold on Iraq.

"Most Iraqis are of peasant origins so they know how to live with little," one senior government official said.

Western diplomats also privately concede that the embargo is having little serious impact on the food front.

"Food if anything is an inconvenience. No-one likes to queue but the Russians have done it for 80 years," said one diplomat who remarked that supplies of some items were more plentiful than when he arrived in Baghdad about a year ago.

Another envoy said it was impossible to know how much food Iraq has stockpiled before the embargo as such stocks are considered a strategic secret.

But he said supplies Iraq had commandeered from affluent Kuwait may have been ignored when the embargo was imposed.

"The quantities available from Kuwait were not really calculated so it's all just guesswork. Nobody really knows," the envoy said.

GBM offers IBM System/390 through distributors in Mideast

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Gulf Business Machines (GBM), IBM's regional business partner, has announced it is to supply the new IBM System/390 through IBM distributors in Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman and Jordan.

The computer industry's most advanced integration of system architecture, design, technology and function was launched Sept. 5 in America and Europe. IBM called it: "Our most comprehensive announcement of products, features and functions in more than a quarter-century."

System/390, with its broad array of product options, has been designed to satisfy the computing needs of the 1990s as defined by IBM customers who want to manage their information system resources better and integrate them with strategic business processes for competitive advantage.

System/390 introduces the IBM Enterprise System/9000 family of 18 new processors including the most powerful the company has ever offered. The flexibility of the new processor family provides a 100-fold increase in performance from the

smallest model to the most powerful.

For the first time, MVS/ESA, IBM's most powerful operating system — previously available only to users of its larger systems — also becomes available to intermediate system customers.

"The new hardware and software functions focus on almost every aspect of enterprise-wide computing, extending the customer's ability to interconnect systems of varying types and allowing end-users to access data wherever it may reside in the enterprise," said Mustafa Rngibani, general manager of GBM. "GBM has already received a number of orders for IBM System/390 and is discussing the new system with our customers in the region," Rngibani added.

The most important advance in System/390 is the Enterprise System Connectivity (ESCON) architecture. This effectively "brings down the walls" of the traditional computer-room, allowing the customer for the first time to extend any input/output connectivity up to nine kilometres.

Kodak affirms business integrity, says Polaroid award high

ROCHESTER, New York (Agencies) — "While we feel the court award is substantially more than the amount of which Polaroid is entitled, we view the court's decision as a confirmation of our good faith in entering the instant photography business," Kodak Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer Kay R. Whitmore has said.

Whitmore's remarks were made in response to the opinion released recently by U.S. District Judge A. David Mazzone, assessing damages in the 14-year-old Polaroid-Kodak patent infringement suit. In his opinion, Judge Mazzone ruled that Kodak's infringement was not willful and awarded Polaroid a total of \$909.5 million.

of the facts and applicable law, we can say that the award is substantially more than the amount to which we believe Polaroid is entitled," Whitmore said. "However, we are pleased that Judge Mazzone ruled that the patent infringement was not willful. It has always been our firm policy to respect the valid patent rights of others and the avoidance of any patent infringement was uppermost in our minds in the design of our instant camera and film."

"This award will have not material financial impact on the company and will be paid from earnings," Whitmore added. "More importantly, this decision establishes that our infringement was not intentional and not due to any willful act on the part of Kodak."

Scotch brewer talks piece of cognac concern

LONDON (R) — Highland Distilleries has said that it was taking a major stake in France's Remy Cointreau, blending the assets of Scotland's best-selling whisky maker with a world leader in cognac, champagne and liqueurs.

The Highland/Remy deal is part of a scramble by major drinks makers to put together cross-border marketing arrangements and investments to take advantage of the single European market starting in 1993.

Highland Distilleries Co. PLC said it would pay £75.9 million (\$150 million) for 30 per cent of Remy S.A., the parent of Remy Cointreau.

The investment expands marketing links begun in 1988 between the Scottish group, whose famous Grouse Scotch is the no. 1 seller in Scotland, and Remy Cointreau, whose brands include Remy Martin cognac, Piper Heidsieck and Krug Champagnes and Mount Gay Rum.

The French group, with its strong international distribution, will be able to use its global marketing muscle to bring famous Grouse to a wider audience.

"This investment will assist Highland to meet its objectives of developing the famous Grouse into a major international brand," said Highland's Chairman John Goodwin in a statement.

Britain's Grand Metropolitan has a marketing arrangement with Remy Martin and Guinness PLC has a joint venture with Hennessy. Canadian giant drinks company Seagram owns Martell.

Under the deal, Highland will acquire bonds that can be converted into up to 30 per cent of the stock of Remy. The heriart Dubreuil family, which controls Remy, may acquire up to a maximum of 10 per cent of Highland's stock. Highland also sold to Remy its 12.7 per cent holding of Scotch maker Macallan-Glenlivet PLC, valued at £31.4 million.

Poland to model stock exchange on France's Lyon Bourse

WARSAW (R) — France and Poland agreed Tuesday to create a stock exchange in Warsaw, housed in the former Communist Party headquarters and modelled on France's Lyon Bourse.

Privatisation Minister Waldemar Kuczyński signed a letter of intent with French Ambassador Alain Bry, under which French experts will conduct a feasibility study on setting up the Warsaw exchange and France will train Polish personnel.

Kuczyński said the exchange would be in the former headquarters of the Polish Communist Party, which has been empty since the party disbanded in January.

Paul Dubroeuq, director of the Societe des Bourses Francaises, said at the signing ceremony that French experts hoped to work out a system that would let trading begin in February in the shares of privatised Polish companies.

World faces big oil glut, price crash if Iraq quits Kuwait

DUBAI (R) — The world faces an oil glut and dramatically falling crude prices if Iraq withdraws from Kuwait peacefully, because Gulf producers which boosted output will not be able to cut it again quickly, Gulf oil sources say.

"Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi will find it very difficult to slow down production in the short term if (the Gulf crisis) is called off today," a senior Gulf oil industry official said Wednesday.

The sources said that new commitments to supply oil and gas, a need to help pay for defence against Iraq with added oil revenues, and priority plans for extra output capacity all argue against a sudden drop to pre-invasion output levels.

Oil prices could plummet from around \$40 a barrel now to below \$20 because the high prices are based more on fears of supply disruption through war than on real shortages, Gulf oil analysts said.

Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi, the biggest oil producer in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), increased their crude output to maximum capacity since last month to help match over four million barrels per day (b/d) of crude lost due to a U.N. trade blockade of Iraq, and Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia is producing about 7.7 million b/d, more than two million b/d higher than its pre-Iraqi invasion level. Abu Dhabi is pumping around 1.9 million b/d, up from 1.2 million.

Oil analysts think there could be a 1.5 to 1.8 million b/d gap between world demand and supply in the fourth quarter of the year because of the northern hemisphere's winter heating needs.

But a senior official of the International Energy Agency (IEA), the West's energy watchdog, said Wednesday that the current market position was manageable.

IEA members hold over 99 days forward supply of crude and some producers want Western consumer states to release some stocks to ease the pressure of high oil market prices.

Extra production at higher prices puts billions extra dollars into the Gulf states' coffers, some of which is paid as a contribution for the costs of international forces stationed in Saudi Arabia to deter Iraqi aggression.

"Producing (oil) at high levels is additive, especially with the current high prices," an oil industry executive in the Gulf said. "None of these (Gulf) countries have a good record for cutting output quickly when the time comes."

Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi have also committed themselves to supply crude oil to a number of developing countries like Brazil, Turkey and Pakistan which had relied heavily on supplies from Iraq and Kuwait.

And Saudi Arabia has stepped up its liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) exports, which are processed from natural gas produced along with the added crude production.

This might force the kingdom to produce crude at high levels until LPG export contracts, some of them to ex-Kuwaiti and Iraqi customers, are terminated, the sources said.

On top of the current production levels, Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi have embarked on expansion schemes to boost their maximum pumping levels dramatically when completed.

Saudi Arabia in the next three months will raise maximum output capacity to eight million b/d from 7.7 million and plans to push up its production capacity to 10 million b/d, where it stood a decade ago, within five years.

Abu Dhabi is also raising output to add almost 350,000 b/d to the emirate's output capacity in the next few years.

Meanwhile, OPEC, warning of world recession unless industrial countries act to cut soaring oil prices, appeared Wednesday to have thawed its relations with the West.

OPEC's Secretary-General Shihoro said informal discussions with a senior member of the IEA had created a better understanding between the two oil bodies.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, October 17, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	128.2	124.0
U.S. dollar	650.0/654.0	656.5	Japanese yen (for 100)	361.1	363.4
Pound Sterling	125.6/126.3	126.8	Swedish crown	115.8	116.5
Deutschemark	429.5/432.1	434.6	Italian lira (for 100)	57.4	57.7
Swiss franc	509.0/512.1	515.6	Belgian franc (for 10)	208.7	210.9

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.9755/65	U.S. dollar	1.1575/85
One U.S. dollar	1.5060/65	Canadian dollar	1.6975/85
	1.2675/85	Deutschemarks	30.99/31.04
	5.0450/0500	Dutch guilders	1128/1129
	124.80/90	Swiss francs	124.80/90
	5.5925/75	Belgian francs	5.5925/75
	5.8450/8500	French francs	5.8450/8500
	5.7400/50	Italian lire	5.7400/50
One ounce of gold	365.15/65	Japanese yen	365.15/65
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Managing Director

North Korea offers South pact to end threat of another war

PYONGYANG (R) — North Korea Wednesday proposed a pact to end the threat of another war with rival South Korea if the South abandoned what the North said were attempts to permanently seal the division of the peninsula.

North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyon-Muk made the offer at the opening of talks with South Korean Prime Minister Kang Young-Hoon, the most senior official from the capitalist South to visit the Communist North in 45 years of confrontation.

North Korean officials told reporters it was the first time Pyongyang had put such a proposal to Seoul.

The two countries' are still technically at war and have stared each other down over a heavily fortified border since three years of full-scale conflict ended in 1953.

Enmity boiled to the surface again at Wednesday's meeting, which ended with a sharp exchange between the two premiers, according to South Korean press pool reports.

"If you don't discuss issues sincerely and only provoke us,

are we going to resolve anything?" snapped Yon.

"Didn't you also aggravate us?" Kang retorted.

"Last night at the banquet we laughed together," Kang said, "but whenever we go into a meeting place — I don't know why it always ends this way."

Both delegations refused to shake hands after the session, the Japanese News Agency, Kyodo, said.

The atmosphere in Pyongyang's People's Palace of Culture was in contrast to the marked cordiality of the premiers' first encounter in Seoul in September, the highest-level inter-Korean meeting since the peninsula was divided by the victorious powers after World War II.

The Northern premier said one big disagreement was over what steps to take first to move towards the ultimate goal of reunification.

North Korea wants to tackle military and political issues first, South Korea wants to begin with exchanges of people and goods.

Yon's draft text for the non-

aggression pact said neither side would resort to arms against the other and disputes would be solved through negotiation.

It called for the arms race to be halted, armed forces reduced and a military hot-line to be set up to prevent clashes.

About 870,000 North Korean troops face 650,000 South Koreans and 46,000 Americans across a 4-kilometre wide demilitarised zone which marked the front line when the shooting stopped in the 1950-55 war.

Yon said Seoul must abandon plans he said appeared aimed at freezing the status quo and settling for "two Koreas."

He demanded an end to the annual South Korean-U.S. "Team Spirit" war games.

If the South was not in a position to decide this on its own, the North Korean premier added, the two sides should write to the U.S. government.

Kang brushed aside this and two other main issues Pyongyang says must be resolved if reunification is to proceed.

These are the release of three dissidents jailed for illegally visit-

ing North Korea and Pyongyang's proposal for a single Korean seat at the United Nations.

Kang also demanded that the North abandon its goal of revolution in the South, according to South Korean press pool reports.

"If you continue to attempt to interfere in our internal affairs... we have a lot to say about your own internal affairs," Kang said.

Kang gave detailed proposals to restore inter-Korean travel, mail and telecommunications, and to further economic exchanges and cooperation.

On Thursday, Kang was scheduled to meet North Korean President Kim Il-Sung, the 78-year-old "great leader" who has ruled his increasingly isolated Stalinist state since it was founded.

Kang will reportedly pass on a proposal for a summit meeting either in Seoul or Pyongyang from South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo.

According to the press pool report, Pyongyang spokesman An Byong-Su later warned: "If these issues aren't resolved, we will not be able to hold high-level talks again."

3 whites held over black killing in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Police arrested three white men Wednesday and seized a cache of automatic weapons in connection with a recent attack on a bus in which six blacks were killed and 27 wounded.

Police said the men were arrested in a raid in Durban and AK-47 assault rifles and other weapons were seized. Police Col. R. Reynolds said the men would appear in court, but gave no other details.

The three men are believed to be linked to extreme right-wing white groups opposed to government plans to end apartheid, according to local journalists. Police declined to comment on the men's political affiliations.

A bus used by blacks was attacked with automatic gunfire near Durban Oct. 9. Everyone on the bus was killed or wounded.

If the suspects do have right-wing affiliations, the attack would be one of the worst racial incidents since white extremists vowed to fight government plans to scrap apartheid and share power with the black majority.

In other developments, the pro-apartheid Conservative Party threatened a tax revolt by at least one million whites to force the government to call elections and block plans to share power with the black majority.

A proposal calling on whites to refuse to pay taxes was presented late Tuesday to loud cheers at the Conservative national conference in Durban. Party leaders said they would study the proposed tax revolt as part of a comprehensive "resistance" strategy.

The party demanded that President F.W. de Klerk agree to whites-only elections on plans to end white-minority rule.

The Conservatives, the main white opposition party, are calling for a white homeland, claiming whites and blacks cannot live together.

Police said Wednesday that three people had been killed in the latest black factional fighting. Two men, including a black city councillor, were gunned down near Durban and a man was burned to death in eastern Transvaal province, they said.

Police also reported a clash between supporters of the African National Congress and the more militant Pan Africanist Congress in a dispute over taking part in a rent boycott at Komga in eastern Cape province.

Zaire to withdraw troops from Rwanda

BRUSSELS (R) — Zaire will withdraw troops it sent to Rwanda after rebels invaded the country earlier this month, Zaire's official state news agency AZAP said Wednesday.

The agency, monitored in Brussels, gave no further details. There have been unconfirmed reports that Zaire would withdraw its forces, which it says number 500.

Some Western diplomats have said Zaire sent as many as 1,000 troops to Rwanda while the rebels say the figure is 1,500.

France and Belgium — Rwanda's former colonial ruler — have also sent troops to protect hundreds of their citizens living in the country.

In Brussels, a Rwandan rebel group said Wednesday it would refuse to negotiate a peace deal unless President Juvénal Habyarimana resigned.

"He (Habyarimana) has no mandate to negotiate in the name of a people that he is slaughtering," said Shyamba Barakanyura of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF).

But he did not rule out the

possibility that the rebels might negotiate with other government leaders.

Barakanyura also called for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Rwanda. He condemned what he called "the interference of foreign forces and the support they give to a repressive and corrupt regime."

Refugees exiled in Uganda, mainly from the minority Tutsi tribe, invaded Rwanda on Oct. 1, complaining of years of domination by the majority Hutus.

Later, AZAP said the Zairean troops had been pursuing rebel forces close to the Rwandan-Ugandan border when they were given the order to withdraw.

They were told to return to the Zairean town of Goma and to await further orders there, AZAP said. It gave no further details.

Meanwhile Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens held talks Tuesday with Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi aimed at finding a solution to a rebel invasion of Rwanda, and official Kenyan statement said.

Walesa vows to smash obstacles to democracy

KRAKOW, Poland (R) — Lech Walesa stepped up his campaign for the Polish presidency Wednesday, saying he wanted to smash everything hindering a speedy move to full democracy and a free market economy.

He accused his chief rival for the presidency, Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, and other former Solidarity comrades of teaming up against him because they were unable to dominate him and were afraid of him.

"I want to become president because I'm unhappy, because it's all going too slowly and because there are too many obstacles," Walesa told workers at the Nowa Huta steel mill outside Krakow, where Solidarity began a strike in 1988 that played a big part in persuading the Communist authorities to hand over power.

"I want to get all of you involved in order to smash everything that hinders us," the Solidarity leader added.

His call for speedier reforms threw down the gauntlet to Mazowiecki, who advocates a cautious switch to democracy and capitalism and says Walesa's methods could cause great damage.

"Obviously we should do it safely, so that no one tells us it is dangerous," Walesa said.

"But I want to stand at the

helm to speed things up and accelerate, so that we don't have another upsurge of discontent and don't waste time and energy like today."

He was in Krakow hard on the heels of Mazowiecki, who Sunday was welcomed warmly by the city's intellectual and aristocratic Catholic elite, who bitterly oppose Walesa.

Walesa later told a rally in a packed hall at the steel mill that he had no quarrel with intellectuals but Mazowiecki had refused his offer in August of keeping him on as prime minister if Walesa became president.

"Now you are my advisers and not Mazowiecki or (Solidarity) parliamentary leader Bronislaw Geremek, who thought they could use me as a puppet," Walesa told the workers.

"They are afraid they can't lead me and they are all campaigning together while I defend myself alone," he added.

Walesa hit back at criticism by Solidarity politicians that he would be a dictatorial president acting like a wild west sheriff.

"I like the idea of a sheriff, but only one who acts lawfully," he told the meeting. "If something goes wrong, the president should go there and take a look, and I will intervene immediately."

Ukrainian premier to quit after protests

KIEV, Soviet Union (R) — Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol has agreed to resign following several days of street protests denouncing his government's economic policies, the republic's president announced Wednesday.

"Yesterday we had a conversation... we reached the conclusion that Vitaliy Andreyevich Masol will resign," President Leonid Kravchuk told the parliament of the Soviet Union's second most

important republic.

He did not say when Masol would step down.

The announcement apparently failed to mollify students who have been demanding the resignation of both Masol and Kravchuk.

Several thousand protesters roamed the streets of Kiev for the third straight day, disrupting traffic throughout the Ukrainian capital.

If Masol resigns, he will be the

first official of his rank in a Soviet republic to do so under public pressure.

Masol served as prime minister under hardline Ukrainian Communist chief Vladimir Shcherbitsky, who was removed from office last year after 17 years in power.

Students and radical deputies have denounced his economic proposals, saying they call for the transfer to Moscow of 39 per cent of the republic's hard currency earnings and fail to embrace basic tenets of market economics.

Woerner: No East Europe members for NATO

PARIS (AP) — Eastern European nations will not be invited to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) despite their adoption of democratic values, a newspaper quoted NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner as saying Wednesday.

In the interview published by the left-of-centre French daily Liberation, Woerner also said the 12-member European Community cannot replace NATO, even in the long run.

"Woerner," a German, maintained that rapid Western response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait would not have been possible without NATO structures, even if the alliance refused to act directly.

Liberation asked Woerner if NATO, which he described as an alliance underpinned by democratic values, might someday include newly democratic countries of the former Warsaw Pact.

"We constitute an alliance between Europe and North America. In the goal of assuring supplementary stability, we want to build a network of bilateral relations between the (Soviet Union) and other members of the Warsaw Pact," he was quoted as replying.

"But that has nothing to do with the question of becoming a member."

Liberation quoted Woerner as saying that NATO is the only conceivable counterbalance to a Soviet Union that will remain the sole military superpower on the European continent.

"The European Community cannot replace NATO," Woerner said. "It will take a long time before it can really establish a defence structure. And even then, are you sure that the Europeans could, with their forces alone, balance Soviet power?"

Bush runs into trouble during 5-state trip

WASHINGTON (AP) — The setting was the 1990 midterm campaign, but 1992 themes and potential political problems were apparent during President George Bush's two-day swing to five states.

at each stop during the trip that ended Tuesday night in Michigan, Bush hammered at the Democratic-controlled Congress and blamed it for the budget deadlock.

He denounced "this liberal crowd that runs the Congress" and sounded the traditional themes of toughness on crime and dedication to quality education.

His audiences of Republican contributors loved it. But the president also was interrupted at each stop by people protesting U.S. involvement in the Gulf.

There were only a handful of protesters. But their presence was a reminder of demonstrations that eventually swept the nation when U.S. involvement in Vietnam escalated into an undeclared war that resulted in thousands of casualties.

"No war for oil," chanted protesters in Des Moines, Iowa, and Grand Rapids, Michigan. "Mr. President, why are you provoking a war in the Middle East?" shouted a woman in Wheaton, Illinois.

Bush responded to the interruptions with a mixture of firmness and understanding.

"We are not in the Middle East to protect oil," he said, his voice hard-edged. "We are there to stand up to aggression."

"I have to tell you," he interrupted in his speech in Iowa. "I understand where these kids are coming from. I understand that. I went through World War II. We've been through a couple of agonising periods with the Korean War and the Vietnam War. So their view shouldn't be entirely written off."

A more immediate political problem for the president was the federal budget.

He vowed to veto the plan that passed the House moments after he spoke in Michigan, and said he much preferred the Senate version that avoids any increase in income taxes.

"When you hear this liberal crowd that runs the Congress in Washington talking about taxing the rich, they're going to be after you, the next thing you know," he warned.

Bush referred to the compromise worked out two weeks ago but rejected by the House.

"We had a good package," he said. "It was a compromise on there that would get the deficit down by \$500 billion."

What he didn't say was that Republicans were among the leaders of the dissenters who defeated the compromise.

2 more corruption cases filed against Bhutto

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — The army-backed caretaker government Wednesday filed two more corruption cases against Benazir Bhutto, intensifying the legal pressure on the ousted prime minister a week before national elections.

This brings to six the number of cases before special one-judge tribunals set up to try corruption charges against the 37-year-old former prime minister, her husband and key members of her ousted government.

Justice Mohammad Amir Malik set a hearing for Oct. 20 to determine whether Ms. Bhutto should stand trial.

Some legal experts doubt any of the cases against Ms. Bhutto will be completed before the Oct. 24 parliamentary election. They say Pakistan's judicial process is slow and cumbersome and add that the courts seem reluctant to step up the process for fear that the United States, which cut off millions of dollars in economic and military aid if Ms. Bhutto is disqualified.

But growing resentment over U.S. influence in this Muslim country of 110 million people has become an election issue, and many fear Ms. Bhutto will be disqualified just before the poll to spite Washington.

Ms. Bhutto was dismissed on Aug. 6 by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who charged her 20-month-old government was so corrupt and incompetent that it could no longer function. She is challenging Ishaq Khan's decision in the courts.

The charges filed Wednesday allege Ms. Bhutto used billions of rupees (hundreds of millions of dollars) in secret service funds to buy political favour and used government and military aircraft to transport supporters in parliament during a no-confidence vote last year.

She is being tried on similar charges before another special tribunal in Lahore and one in Karachi, her hometown. If convicted, she could be banished from politics for seven years.

Ms. Bhutto has steadfastly denied any wrongdoing.

Protestant, Catholic killed in Belfast gun attacks

BELFAST (R) — A Catholic and a Protestant were shot dead in separate hit-and-run gun attacks in Belfast Tuesday night, police said Wednesday.

In one of the bloodiest nights of sectarian violence in Belfast this year, the first victim, a 41-year-old Catholic, was gunned down on his way home from a trip to buy drink at a liquor store.

The second victim, a 24-year-old Protestant man and former Northern Ireland police reservist, was killed waiting for a taxi in a hotel car park after a night out drinking with friends.

Police believe Protestant gunmen killed the Catholic while Republicans were responsible for shooting the Protestant.

Police first thought the two killings were linked but later ruled out any connection.

Both men died within an hour

of each other and in the same Catholic neighbourhood in North Belfast, a persistent flashpoint for sectarian tension and scene of 545 killings over the past 20 years.

The Catholic, married to the niece of a leading Belfast lawyer, was standing on a street corner when gunmen got out of a hijacked car and shot him at close range.

Local nationalist politicians said they thought the Catholic had been killed in retaliation for the shooting last Saturday of two police dog handlers in a daylight ambush in Belfast city centre.

The Irish Republican Army (IRA), fighting to oust Britain from Northern Ireland, admitted responsibility for the shooting, which killed one of the policemen and left the other in a serious condition.

Mayor's sister killed in Philippine rebel ambush

DATU PIANG, Philippines (AP) — The mayor of this southern Philippine town escaped a second assassination attempt by Muslim rebels but his eldest sister was killed and his wife and five other people were injured in an ambush, relatives said Wednesday.

Suspected Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels ambushed the victims Tuesday as they were returning to Datu Piang in an ambulance ordinarily used by Mayor Ben Mocalid, said the relatives.

They said the mayor's eldest sister, Bai Kangkongan Angas,

died on arrival at a hospital. Mocalid's wife, Lokaya, was among the six others injured.

The victims had gone to a nearby town to help prepare for a relative's wedding, while Mocalid attended services for the slain son of Norodin Matalam, governor of Maguindanao province.

Relatives said they believed Mocalid was the target of the attack near Datu Piang, 880 kilometres south of Manila.

They said he also was the target of an ambush of the same vehicle in March, in which seven of his aides and bodyguards were injured.

COLUMN

Garbo's art collection expected to raise \$24m

LONDON (AP) — The art collection of Hollywood legend Greta Garbo is expected to raise around \$24 million when it comes up for auction in London and New York next month. The main part of the Swedish-born star's collection, including three Renoir paintings and one by Pierre Bonnard, comes under the hammer at Sotheby's in New York in November. The second part will be sold at Sotheby's London auction house in December. The top item for sale is Renoir's *Leontine Et Coco*, painted in 1909. It is expected to fetch up to \$9 million. Garbo, who died in April, left her entire fortune to her niece, Gray Reisfield, who will receive all proceeds from the auction.

Family asks dying thief to surrender

NEW YORK (R) — The family of a man who stole \$125,000 because he was dying of cancer and wanted money for his funeral appealed to him Tuesday to give himself up and end a nationwide hunt. Bernard Gamble robbed a currency exchange at New York's Kennedy Airport last week of \$125,000, saying he was dying of cancer and needed the money for his funeral. The family gave the money back and issued an appeal Tuesday for Gamble to come out of hiding and give himself up. "If you are listening, please come home," Gamble's 24-year-old son Robert urged him. The father has become known as "the Robin Hood of Queens" since the gunpoint robbery. Gamble vanished on Oct. 7 after the holdup. "I want it just for my family, so there can be a proper funeral," Gamble is quoted as saying during the robbery. According to Barry Slotnick, the lawyer who successfully defended subway gunman Bernie Goetz, Gamble had tears in his eyes while he was tying up employees of the currency firm. Slotnick has vowed to keep Gamble out of jail.

Sale of Berlin Wall pieces raises 2.1m marks

BERLIN (R) — Pieces of the Berlin Wall, which once symbolised Europe's division in the cold war, have been sold for 2.1 million marks (\$1.4 million) for East German charities, the news agency ADN said Monday. Some 100 concrete slabs of the wall largely demolished since May, it quoted Wilfried Angerstein, secretary of a government-appointed board of trustees overseeing the operation, as saying. The four-metre high wall split Berlin in half and sealed off its Western zone from surrounding East Germany for 28 years until late 1989, when the country's Communist regime fell in a popular uprising that led to German unification this month. Remaining stretches of the wall, apart from sections to be preserved for posterity, will be taken down by the end of this year. The former East Germany decided to market wall slabs to generate funds for health and cultural causes. Countless smaller pieces have been hawked to souvenir hunters at outdoor markets near the wall.

Lights to be dimmed to keep moths away

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Politicians aren't the only creatures being drawn to parliament these days. Officials are having so many problems from an invasion of bogong moths that half of the powerful lights illuminating the 2-year-old building's flagpole are being dimmed at night to try to keep them away. The huge parliament building has been invaded by the moths each southern hemisphere spring since it opened. Ron Edwards, the acting speaker of parliament, said that in addition to turning off the lights, workers also have covered air intakes and exhaust vents with fine mesh. Windows have been sealed to deny the moths entry. Despite these precautions, the moths have been getting into the building by the hundreds. Although the numbers are down considerably from the plague proportions in the weeks after parliament opened in August 1988, they are well above last year's infestation. The moths migrate south each year along the great dividing range, which runs along Australia's southeastern coastline.

Sikhs kill 5 troops in train ambush

CHANDIGARH, India (R) — Sikh separatists hlew an Indian troop train off the tracks, shooting dead five soldiers and wounding 15 as they staggered from the wreckage, police said Wednesday.

A powerful bomb derailed the engine and first six carriages of the special train late Tuesday near the Punjab city of Ferozepur, they said.

Sikh militants opened fire from the darkness with automatic rifles. They were driven off by soldiers shooting from the other carriages.

Police said they could not immediately recall such a big attack on the armed forces, which separatists have generally left alone during their decade-long fight for an independent state named Khalistan.

More than 2,900 people have been killed in the campaign this year, Punjab police say.

The separatists often disrupt communications by blowing up rail tracks but the bombs are small and the damage easily repaired.

The Indian army's basic task in Punjab is to guard the border with Pakistan and is usually brought into the fight with separatists only in an emergency.

But the attack on the troop train emphasised fears that Sikh militants could disrupt India's crucial communication lines through Punjab in the event of a fourth Indo-Pakistani war.

The possibility of war was being discussed openly earlier this year during a revolt in the Indian part of divided Kashmir.

Indian defence officials said then they were worried the separatists would step up their ambushes and sabotage if war did break out.

Two of the three wars the two countries have fought since becoming independent from Britain in 1947 have been over Kashmir.

India accuses Pakistan, which controls one-third of Kashmir, of arming and training separatists in Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state. Islamabad denies the charge.

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Gargantuan storm appears on Saturn

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A gargantuan storm 1 and 1/2 times as wide as the Earth has suddenly developed in Saturn's atmosphere and the Hubble space telescope will be used to watch it, astronomers have announced.

The oval-shaped white spot on the solar system's second-largest planet measures 20,000 kilometres wide by 4,960 kilometres long, they said Tuesday.

"It's a celestial spectacle," said Stephen O'Meara, an associate editor at Sky and Telescope magazine. "I'm ecstatic. It's really incredible."

"It's lovely," said Reta Beebe, an astronomer at New Mexico State University.

She said